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TOLEDO WEEKLY BLADE

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JES' 'FORE CHRISTMAS.

Father calls me William, sister calls me Will,
Mother calls me Willie—but the fellers call me Bill!
Mighty glad I ain't a girl—ruther be a boy
Without them sashes, curls, an' things that's worn by Fauntleroy!
Love to chaw'n green apples an' go swimmin' in the lake
Hate to take the castor-ile they give f'r belly-ache!
Most all the time the hull year roun' there ain't no flies on me,
But jes' before Christmas I'm as good as I can be.

Got a yaller dog named Spot—sick 'em on the cat!!
Fust thing she knows she doesn't know where she is at!!
Got a clipper sled, an' when us boys go out to slide,
'Long comes the grocery cart an' we all hook a ride!
But, sometimes, when the grocery man is worried and cross,
He reaches at me with his whip, and lar-rups up his hoss,
An' then I laff an' holler: "Oh, you never teched me!"
But jes' before Christmas I'm as good as I can be.

For Christmas, with its lots an' lots of candies, cakes an' toys,
Was made, they say, for proper kids, an' not for naughty boys,
So wash yer face, an' brush yer hair, an' mind your p's and q's,
And don't bust out yer pantaloons, and don't wear out your shoes;
Say "Yessum" to the ladies, an' "Yessur" to the men,
An' when they's company don't pass yer plate fer pie again;
But thinkin' of the things yer'd like to see upon that tree,
Jest 'fore Christmas, be as good as yer kin be.

—Eugene Field.

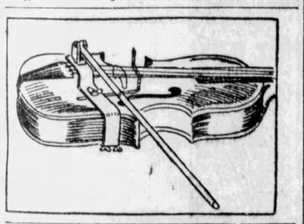
A WONDERIN' OF HOME FOLKS

Those who expect to hear Byron W. King at the Washington Street church next Monday night will read the following poem by him with interest. His impersonations and readings are very fine:

Just a-wonderin' if they're thinkin'
of a pilgrim far away;
Just a-wonderin' if it's lonesome
in that little home today!
Just a-wonderin' if when morning
at door and window slips,
And the bright eyes wake from slumber,
if my name is on their lips!
Just a-wonderin' if when evening
hides the earth in shadows dim,
If they speak the name of "Daddy,"
hungerin' just a bit for him!
Just a-wonderin' if the Junior
ever halts his merry laugh
When his earnest, wistful vision
Strikes his old Dad's fortograph!"
Just a-wonderin' if my daughter,
growin' into womanhood,
Might forget her plain old father
for some wooden-headed dude!
Just a-wonderin' if the youngest
might forget my good-bye kiss
And the big, rough hands that trembled
with her tiny one in his!
Just a-wonderin 'till a heartache
creeps up here inside my vest,
And my eyes hurt with the shadows
that are driftin' 'cross the west.
Just a-wonderin'—no, I'm certain
there is one who don't forget!
One whose thoughts are ever with me,
like great stars that never set!
One whose prayers go on before me,
lighting all the shadowy deeps;
One who doubly joys in my joy,
At my sorrow, doubly weeps.
So, I softly say "God bless 'em!"
say it while my eyes are dim;
Daddy thinks a lot of home folks,
and, you, bet, they think of him!

BOWING GUIDE FOR VIOLINS

Heretofore the most difficult thing for beginners to acquire in violin playing has been what is termed "bowing"—that is, the art of carrying the bow squarely across the strings and at right angles thereto, and also at a certain distance from the bridge. This is absolutely necessary in order to get the proper tone effect, and until the pupil has acquired the art of bowing he canont become an accomplished player. In some cases this has required years of constant practice, but with the aid of the invention shown in the illustration it is claimed that the task is simplified to the point where no effort is required, as with its use there is no chance of the hand getting out of position. As will be seen, a supporting clamp is secured to one side of the instrument, to carry the adjustable wire tongue which prevents the bow from



traveling too far from the bridge, and also providing a pivot for the rod extending toward the player's right hand. On the right wrist is secured a bracelet, having an eyelet to slide on the rod, and it is obvious that, while free movement is permitted in the proper direction, there is no chance for the hand to swing downward toward the neck of the instrument. As soon as the natural tendency to move the hand improperly is overcome there is no further need for the guide, and the pupil is then free to devote his time to fingering practice.

HUMOR OF THE DAY.

Caesar had just remarked that he would rather be first in a village than second in Rome.

"But, sire," protested Brutus mildly, "I don't see the advantage."

"Simpleton!" retorted the general, "wouldn't you rather be janitor of a small flat than tenant in a big one?"

Perceiving he had a true appreciation of values, the mutitude made haste to do him reverence.—Judge.

"Remember, Johnny," said the good man, "there is always a chance for every boy in this country to grow up and be the president of the United States."

"Well, I'll tell you what I'll do, old long face," the wicked child replied, "I'll trade you my chance for a cigarette and that gold thing you have hangin' on your watch chain."—Chicago Record-Herald.

The form of the present-day woman consists of a great deal of fiction, founded on some fact.—Life.

"I understand that drinking is one of your husband's failings."

"You have been misinformed. It is his most pronounced success."—Chicago Daily News.

"What was it—a chrysanthemum wedding?"

"No. Government bonds."—Life.

She—He didn't succeed in convincing her after all his argument.

He—No: he merely made her mad.

"But his explanation was clear."

"Yes; and that's where he made his mistake. He told her it was as 'plain as the nose on her face.' "—Tit-Bits.

Fully Identified.

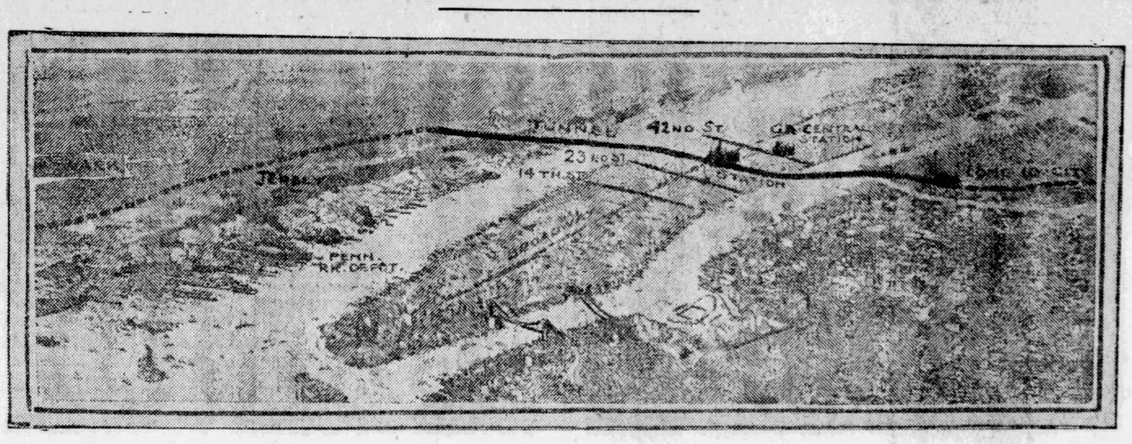
New Art Director (of famous publishing house)—I find here a lot of unmarked drawings—

Publisher—What are the subjects?

New Art Director—A close-shaven man always, sometimes waving a sword, sometimes a revolver, sometimes wearing medals—

Publisher—Oh, those are for Richard Harding Davis' next story but one.—Judge.

FRANCHISE GRANTED FOR THE GREAT TUNNEL UNDER NEW YORK



With only one vote to spare, the New York board of aldermen on Tuesday night gave its consent to the construction of the Pennsylvania railroad tunnel, beginning in the Hackensack Meadows and extending under Manhattan island to Long Island City. There will be a giant terminal station in the center of Manhattan island, where passengers may take through trains passing under the North river to the south and west, or under the East river to New England and the north over an enormous bridge which is to span Ward's island and connect the New York, New Haven and Hartford tracks with those of the Pennsylvania and Long Island railroads.

The tunnel company must begin the construction of the tunnel within three months and must complete the tunnel and begin its operation within five years.

For the first ten years of operation the company must pay 50 cents a linear foot of single railway track, and for the next fifteen years $1 a foot.

For the use of streets underground the company must pay $15,140 a year for the first ten years, and $30,280 a year for the following 15 years. For the space occupied as a terminal the charge will be $36,000 a year, and if the company buys the space outright it is to cost $788,600.

The company's taxes on real estate will amount to $500,000 a year.

The power to be used is electricity or such other power not involving combustion in the tunnel, as shall be approved by the rapid transit board.

This tunnel will cause the expenditure of $30,000,000 in wages for workingmen engaged in construction. It has already cost the operating company nearly $6,000,000 for property for its terminal. It will connect two boroughs of New York city with the west and south without the disadvantage of a ferry system. It will reduce the time between New York and Philadelphia, for through and suburban traffic, to 90 minutes.

THE UNITED STATES OF VENEZUELA.

Venezuela is a federal republic, like our own. It is composed of eight state eight territories, and the federal district containing the capital, Caracas. Its name is derived from Venezia, the Spanish form of the word Venice. In 1499 Oieda and Amerigo Vespucci explored the coast and penetrated the lagoon now called Lake Maracaibo. Near its eastern shore there was a group of some twenty native huts, erected on piles and communicating with each other by crazy drawbridges. The explorers named it "little Venice," or Venezuela. The name thus casually given to a cluster of huts gradually extended to the surrounding shores, on which similiar pile dwellings were numerous, and eventually to the whole region.

The insurrection against Spain which resulted in Venezuelan independence broke out in 1810. The cause of the revolution was seriously endangered by the earthquake in 1812, which destroyed Caracas. This cataclysm took place on Holy Thursday, the first anniversary of the declaration of independence. The priests, who were of Spanish sympathies, declared that God had wrought the ruin to crush the revolution. This piece of superstition prolonged the war for years, and greatly intensified its horrors. Finally, after eleven years of war, the battle of Carabobo brought independence to Venezuela in 1823. The collective success of South American emancipation from Spanish rule was largely to the Venezuelan general and diplomatist, Simon Bolivar. Every town in Venezuela has perpetuated his memory by either erecting his statue or naming some street or square in his honor.

The total area of Venezuela, since the arbitration of the boundary line between it and British Guiana, due to the intervention of the United States, is 594,000 square miles. That is to say, it woud make more than fourteen states the size of Ohio. But its entire population is less than that of Ohio, its last census only showing about two and a half millions. Of these, one-sixth are Indians, and of the remainder the great majority are of a mixed race—Spanish and Indian, and the intermingling of these with negroes. The absolutely white population is estimated at not over 1 per cent of the total, and there are probably 35,000 foreigners residing there, chiefly engaged in commercial pursuits.

While the coast-line is generally low, it rises very rapidly. For instance, from La Guaira, the seaport of the capital, it is only aboue seven miles to Caracas, the capital; but the latter is 3,000 feet higher, and the railway that connects the two has to meander twenty-four miles around mountain buttresses to find grades that will allow it to surmount the difference in elevation. La Guaira is the most important port, but it has no harbor, only an open roadstead, which makes it perilous in storms.

Caracas has about 75,000 inhabitants, and is a typical Spanish-American city. It is laid out on a plan similar to that of Washington City, but does not compare with the latter, of course, in the excellence of its buildings, public or private. The most beautiful building is Miraflores, the palace built by the late President Crespo, who was killed in battle with the revolutionists just as it was completed. It is now occupied by President Castro. There is a statue of George Washington in a prominent site, to testify to the admiration of the Venezuelans.

During certain parts of the year, the government maintains a theatre, where Italian opera can be heard. A military band plays three evenings a week on the Plaza Bolivar, a handsome square, with a beautiful tesselated pavement. The other plazas are cheap open spaces, while the public buildings, although pretentious in appearance, are flimsy in construction. The more notable are the capitol building, known as the "Yellow house," because of the gandy color of the exterior; the Roman Catholic cathedral, and a notable church in the northern section of the city, styled the Pantheon, within which are interred the remains of Bolivar and many other Venezuelan heroes.

The coast line of Venezuela, shown in the above outline map, is over 2,000 miles in length, following all the sinuosities. The ports going from west to east, are: Maracaibo, 40,000 population—though the bar at the entrance to Lake Maracaibo is so shallow as to keep out all but the smallest vessels; Coro, 9,000; Puerto Cabello, 11,000; Barcelona, Cumana and Carupano, about 12,000 each; La Guaira, 14,000, and San Miguel, 6,000. The northern portion of the country is the seat of the most of the civilized population, and is all that is shown in the map above. The principal interior towns are: Barquisamento, 31,000; Valencia, 38,000; Victoria, 8,000; Barbacoas and Aragna de Barcelona, 10,000 each; and Maturin, 14,000.

Venezuela is a land of mountains and valleys in the north and west, of lower mountains and forested hills in the south, of llanos (grassy prairies) between the Orinoco and the northern mountains, and of swamp and forest, much of the area being uninhabited, in the northwest. The climate is moist, and the prevailing temperature varies from freezing point above the snow-line in the mountains to intense tropical heat in the coast towns, valleys, and on the llanos.

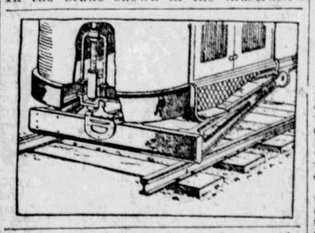
The country is rich in mineral wealth, but little developed except in the Yuruari gold mines, and the coal mines near Barcelona. Near Lake Maracaibo there are vast deposits of petroleum and of coal. Coffee forms over two-thirds of the total exports, next follow cocoa, gold, hides, cattle, sugar, cotton, copper and dyewoods. The imports are flour, cotton and woolen cloths, linen and jute goods, iron, machinery, etc. The exports are about $20,000,000 per year in value, the imports over $15,000,000.

Altogether, it may be said of Venezuela, as was said of Mexico by a Yankee who tried to engage in business there, but whose venture failed because of the lack of energy of the natives: "It would be the best country in the world if all the people were killed off, and their places taken by energetic Americans."

S. S. KNABENSHUE.

EMERGENCY RAILWAY BRAKE

The failure of the ordinary brake on street cars to stop the car at a critical moment has caused the loss of many lives and the injury of hundreds of people in addition, so that the inventor of an emergency brake which can be relied upon will serve a good purpose in introducing his device on the market. The majority of brakes are designed to grip the wheel and cause it to slide on the rail, and if the latter should chance to be slippery there is little hope of stopping the car for some time after the brake has been applied, with the additional risk of flattening the edge of the wheel by frictional contact with the rail. In the brake shown in the illustration



the inventor has made no use of the wheels, but has designed an independent attachment for the car, acting directly on the rails. A horizontal bar is suspended beneath the platform, with a screw shaft and threaded sleeve arranged to put the brake in operation by dropping the bar. The contact face of the bar is covered with a steel shoe, and by revolving a wheel at the upper end of the screw shaft the shoe is forced down against the rail. The motorman has it in his power to continue revolving the wheel until the weight of the entire front end of the car is resting on the shoe instead of on the track, and it is obvious that such a pressure would bring the car to an almost instant stop.

A Much-Spelled Fish.

Some ingenious investigator has discovered that that fine game fish commonly known as the muscalonge has more ways of spelling his name than any other creature that swims. According to the Century dictionary the various ways of spelling the name of this fish are: Maskalonge, mascalonge, maskalunge, muscalonge, muskalonge, muskallnge, moskalonge, masqualonge, maskallonge, muskellunge, nasq' allonge, mascalonge, moscononge, maskinonge, maskanonge, maskenonge masque longue, maskenozha and maskmojo—19 different spellings.

LAST OF THE FAMOUS LINERS

Steamship City of Rome Is About to Be Broken Up for Junk.

One of the most famous of the ocean liners of the present generation is the City of Rome, that for 21 years has been in service between New York and Glasgow. A dispatch from England states that it is to be broken up for old junk. One of the last of her type, to which the City of Paris and the City of New York, now the Philadelphia and the New York, of the American line, belonged, she is giving way to a more modern and speedier boat, the Columbia. The building of the City of Rome, which was launched at the yards of the Barrow Shipbuilding company, at Barrow-in-Furness, England, in 1881, was connected with the demise of the old Inman line. This line had ordered the steamer. When it was completed the company sued the builders for a sum of money, alleging that the steamer did not fulfill the contract. The builders refused to deliver the steamer, and chartered her to the Anchor line. In her early days, the City of Rome used to make the trip between Glasgow and New York in seven days.

Many clergymen crossed the Atlantic on this steamship. On one trip a passenger celebrated the fact that there were more than three dozen ministers of different denominations in the cabin, by composing a ballad on the lines of "The Yarn of the Nancy Bell." It was entitled "The Yarn of the City of Rome," and ran as follows:

'Twas on the steamship City of Rome,
Of the good old Anchor line,
That I saw on the deck a human wreck,
Who was gazing at the brine.

He'd a hymnbook clasped beneath each arm,
He'd a clerical collar white,
And again and again a single strain
He recited with all his might:

"Oh, I am a U-ni-ta-ri-an,
And a Presbyterian, too,
And a Baptist bold (though baptism's cold),
And I am also a true Hebrew."

Then he shrieked a hymn throgh his nose,
And a sailor near dropped dead.
As I watched the sailor's dying throes
I spoke to him and said:

"Oh, it's little I know of religion, so
You'll please explain to me
For I'll eat my vest if I can digest
How possibly you can be

"A Unitarian, a Presbyterian,
A Baptist and a Hebrew?
That's religion enough for the passengers,
The captain and all his crew."

He ran his hands through his priestly hair.
Stopped howling through his nose,
And there on the deck this religious wreck
Related to me his woes.

"I was on the good ship City of Rome,
I sailed for the English coast,
To be free from care, sniff salt sea air
And eat sardines on toast.

"And all was merry as a marriage bell,
And the ship her proud head reared,
When a great misfortune us befell—
Three dozen preachers appeared.

They preached that night in the music hall
Till about half past eleven,
Then out on the deck began to bawl,
And began next morn at seven.

"At breakfast time we had long prayers,
And soon we all got thinner,
For by way of easing all our cares,
They gave us hymns for dinner.

"And one by one the passengers died,
And as each one gave up breath,
The verdict of the doctor was:
'This main was preached to death.'

"Till I was the only one man left
Of all that went to sea,
And I was of reason almost bereft
When they got converting me.

"And one of them made me a Baptist bold,
And a Unitarian another,
Then I entered the Presbyterian fold,
And I called a Hebrew 'brother.'

"So I never cease to howl my hymns,
And I never cease to pray,
And a single strain, again and again,
I sing, which is to say:

"'Oh, I am a U-ni-ta-ri-an,
And a Presbyterian, too,
And a Baptist bold, although baptism's cold),
And I am also a good Hebrew.'"

He Had Not.

At one of the public receptions to the White House during the second Cleveland administration, Mr. Samuel Clemens (Mark Twain) was presented to Mrs. Cleveland. On shaking hands with her he gave her a card, asking simply:

"Will you please sign that?"

Mrs. Cleveland glanced at the card, to find nothing but the words: "He has not——" written across it. She looked in amused perplexity to Mr. Clemens for something further, when the latter explained:

"My wife said if I came here I would be sure to come with my gloves on; but I haven't, have I? So I wish you would sign that for me to give to her."

Mrs. Cleveland looked down at his feet and then laughingly wrote her name on the card.—New York Times.

Not Much Better.

"I understand you've been giving everybody the impression that I was drunk the other night."

"Why, my dear man, you were comparatively sober."

"But you told some people I was as drunk as I could be."

"Not at all. I said you were as sober as you could be."—Philadelphia Press.

WESTERN FREAKS OF VEGETATION

Dame Nature appears to have lost her reckoning in central Illinois this fall, and has been as active as if this was the merry springtime. Freaks of vegetation are reported from many portions of McLean and adjoining counties.

Samuel Heffner, a farmer near Lexington, has just completed cutting his third crop of clover this year. Fourth crops of timothy hay were numerous this year, and old settlers have been trying to recall such a happening in former years. It is believed to be unprecedented. A farmer near McLean has been enjoying strawberries all through the present month, which grew and developed without the aid of hothouses. William Smallman, a resident of Champaign, picked a quart of strawberries from his vines last Sunday, the second crop this year. This is also a very rare happening and cannot be recalled here. A farmer in Ford county reports a second crop of blackberries. F. W. Offer, who resides in Alton, writes that he is picking his second crop of grapes this year. The second crop is not so large nor are the grapes as nutritious as the first, but they are very palatable.

George Heperly, a farmer of Livingston county, has just completed cutting his second crop of oats. After the first cutting he plowed the field and the wet season following caused the scattered oats to grow and develop in a wonderful manner. Apple and peach trees have bloomed the second time in many orchards, but none has developed fruit.

How It's Done.

Publisher—Good!! That song will take the town and sweep the country. Give me the manuscript, quick.

Composer—But it hasn't any words yet.

"Weren't you singing words?

"No, I just sang 'la-la-lum-tum-diddledee-la-la,' etc"

"Well, they'll do as well as any. Hurry up and write 'em down."—Tit-Bits.

AN AFRICAN WONDER.

It Is a City of a Hundred Thousand Skilled People.

The next of Great Britain's wars is quite likely to be in Kano. Few people know where Kano is or what sort of people inhabit it, but all reading men will doubtless be familiar with it ere many years elapse. Not many will accept the description of the Hausas that it is "the center of the world," but Kano, without using the language of extravagance, must be ranked among the wonders of Africa. Its high walls enclose a population of 100,000 people, living in houses which, though built of mud, are not by any means to be despised, and which line broad streets and roads which put many London streets to shame. Most of the houses are shaded by trees, and one traveler has described the appearance of the town as being that of "a big, beautiful garden."

The great market, says this traveler, who visited Kano a year or two ago, is one of the wonders of the world. "Almost anything can be bought there—sugar, is per pound; cotton, cloth, leather, needles, crockery, tinware, dyes, lime, charcoal, meat, slaves, camels, horses, food of every variety, including tomatoes, wheat, tamed gazelles and hyenas, wild cats, birds, anything and everything. The money of the country is still the cowry shells, of which the king sent us 400,000 as a present, but the Maria Theresa dollar is taken, and the great men gladly buy up any quantity of gold and silver coin, for the Hausa is an adept at working in silver and gold, and is as proud as he is skilful. Moreover, he smelts his own ore and works up his native iron in wondrous shapes. The city has thirteen gates (which are always closed at sunset), and is some twelve or fourteen miles in circumference. On the whole, it lies four square, but some of the walls are a little irregular."

There is dignity in majesty, even in the heart of Africa. It is said of one African monarch that each morning after breakfast he leaves his brat and opens his great umbrella and then declares before all the earth that the sun may from that moment shine. Those who would visit the king of Kano on his throne must take off their shoes, and even their stockings, and bow their heads to the ground. Three hours an English mission waited at the palace gates, and then—"a low murmur arose, a pathway was suddenly cut and a magnificent warrior pranced up and drew rein at our feet. This was the waziri, the second man in the kingdom. The palace, a splendid specimen of mud architecture, was a mass of people, and the courtyards were crammed. While we stood in the judgment hall, which was thronged with well-dressed men squatting on the floor, suddenly all the instruments of music burst forth, our umbrellas were snatched from our hands and we were hurried into the king's splendid audience chamber. At the far end, on a rich red dais, was seated the king, wearing a black rawni, which covered everything but his eyes. He is said to be about 30 years of age and to be quite white, but he is more probably copper-colored."—Chicago Chronicle.

TURERCULOUS ORCHIDS.

Science, in its inexorable search for things hidden, has at last directed the eye of suspicion upon the orchid. M. Noel Bernard, a French scientist, after painstaking research into the abstruse question of tuberculosis in plants, pronounces the whole orchideous family to be "purely the product of vegetable infection." According to M. Bernard's theory all orchids are, in their normal condition, infected in thoroughly defined manner, and the cultivation of the finest varieties is only possible under certain conditions of infection from their earliest development. The next question for determination is as to the relation between vegetable and human tuberculosis.—Newcastle Chronicle.

A CHRISTMAS CAROL.

Quickly, children, gather round;
Raise your choral warblings high,
For the blessing that has bound
The earth in one family.

Sing the humble birth and poor;
Sing the manger filled with hay;
Sing the star above the door
Where the child of Mary lay.

For the way the stars ordain
Christ should come to earth and reign,
Is the sweetest song e'er sung,
Honey-sweet on human tongue.

If from guilt you keep you pure,
And in innocence secure
Live, your song will be the same,
Glorifying Jesus' name.

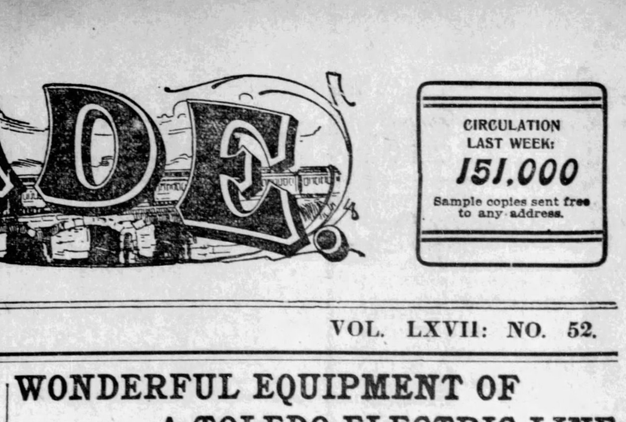
Quickly, children, gather round;
Raise your choral warblings high,
For the blessing that has bound
The earth in one family.

—Christina Behnken.

WONDERFUL EQUIPMENT OF A TOLEDO ELECTRIC LINE

The Toledo & Western is inaugurating a new era in electric railways. No other line has so many distinct departures in railroading. The trade papers are filled with discussions of the methods employed in its operation, the character of its construction and its equipment.

All of this is the result of the faith of Frank E. Seagrave, of Toledo, in the theory that an electric line could be built which could economically handle all classes of freight, as well as passengers. He began as one crying in the wilderness about seven years ago. By putting every dollar he had in the world into the enterprise he secured the right-of-way franchises and commenced to build the road. Here the panic overtook him and the financial interests that had arranged to co-operate with him deserted and left the intrepid builder with good ideas and no money. But Mr. Seagrave held steadfast to his theory. Even when good



A NOVEL ENGINE ON THE TOLEDO & WESTERN.

times came again wise financiers shook their heads when he outlined his plans. Despairing of getting any of the large interests to take up the matter Mr. Seagrave began and successfully carried to consummation the work of floating his bond issue among men of moderate means. Although Cleveland capitalists invested heavily in the road, the larger proportion of the bonds was taken by the smaller investors, as evidenced by the fact that there are over 500 stockholders, and the bonds are even more widely distributed.

On every proposition Mr. Seagrave met great opposition. Strange as it seems now, people raised the question as to whether the proposed Toledo & Western would be a benefit to the country through which it extends. Today the removal of the road would seriously cripple the transportation facilities of Toledo and amount to little less than a calamity to the territory it serves. No other electric line brings so much new business to Toledo or adds as much wealth to the country towns. Before the Toledo & Western was built a large belt of country northwest of Toledo was without any railway facilities. The service which is now rendered by the Toledo & Western is superior to that of a steam line.

Every foot of property on the Toledo & Western has been affected by the construction of the electric road. Thirty new houses have been built in Sylvania since the road has been in operation, and every town on the line has enjoyed a substantial growth. But the increase in the values of the farms along the route has been more marked than in the raise of town property. A conservative estimate places the increase in the value of farm property at 25 per cent.

One of the striking instances of this advance is told by a man who recently sold a farm through which the road extended:

"My farm on the Toledo & Western," said the gentleman referred to, "was covered by a $5,000 mortgage when I gave Mr. Seagrave a right-of-way. I was anxious to dispose of it, as I needed money in other business. Before the road was built the best offer I could secure for my land was $6,000. I was advised by the right-of-way man to hold it until the road was built. I took his advice and sold my farm for $9,000. If the people in Toledo are reaping any more benefit from the Toledo & Western than the farmers they ought to erect monuments as high as the Spitzer to the builders of the road."

The Toledo & Western has virtually annexed the territory on its lines to Toledo. Sylvania and a string of towns along the 80 miles of track are now virtually suburbs of the city. The retail merchants in those towns are as close to the wholesale houses in Toledo as the city stores. The retailers on the Toledo & Western order goods in the morning by telephone and they are delivered before noon. Shipments are made as quickly from Toledo to towns tens or twenty miles distant as deliveries within the city.

Not only is package and express business handled with astonishing rapidity, but lower classes of freight and even live stock as well.

Recently a Toledo butcher was negotiating for the purchase of a carload of freight from a farmer located on the Toledo & Western. He accepted the farmer's terms in a telegram. The farmer drove his hogs into the cattle pen, which was at the corner of his farm, and in less than a half hour the electric line ran a car on the siding at the station. Three hours after the butcher sent his telegram he was notified by telephone that his hogs were delivered at West Toledo. It would have taken the farmer with his wagon a week to haul these hogs to the city. Even on short hauls of five or six miles the farmers are able to save money by shipping produce by trolley car.

Every farm is a station. Any farm of considerable proportions has a freight platform. In the morning these platforms are filled with milk cans, which are picked up by the milk train. During the day the farmer simply places his produce on one of the platforms. It is not necessary for him to wait until a freight car comes along. A shipment on one of these platforms is a signal for the motorman to stop. If the shipment is properly tagged, it will reach its destination.

There is only one difference in the equipment and operation of the Toledo & Western and a steam road. The Toledo & Western uses electrical instead of steam power. C. F. Franklin, the general manager of the road, is a transportation official of ripe experience and recognized ability. He was selected especially for the purpose of inaugurating the same systematic methods as are employed on steam roads. He is succeeding in this particular in an admirable manner, and showing the best of results.

He is the first to install local agents on electric lines who are expected to look after business. All of the agents at the larger towns are telegraph operators, and the cars on the Toledo & Western will soon be dispatched by telegraph, with the same precision as trains on a steam trunk line. In this connection, it was announced this week that the Postal Telegraph company has signed a contract with the Toledo & Western, and will open offices at stations on the road. This is the first time that one of the great telegraph companies has recognized an electric line as a railroad.

In its equipment, the Toledo & Western is fully up to the steam line standard. After experimenting with freight motors for over a year, last week there was turned out of the Sylvania shops an electric locomotive. The only other locomotive of such a character is to be found in the B. & O. tunnel. But "400," as this locomotive is called, is more complete and better equipped than the B. & O. machine.

"The 400 is a 300-horse power engine. Steam locomotives range from 250 to 500 horse power, but it is claimed that the "400" will pick up a train easier than a 300 horse power steam locomotive. Its pulling power has not been fully tested, but the "400" experienced no trouble in handling 15 loaded cars on the first trip. It is equipped with all the latest improvements found on a steam locomotive, including air brakes and automatic couplers. Even the whistle and bell are not forgotten.

As has been frequently announced, the freight equipment consists of standard cars, built according to steam line specifications, with automatic couplers and air brakes. By the time the Toledo & Western is completed, it will have as many freight cars, per mile, as the average steam road.

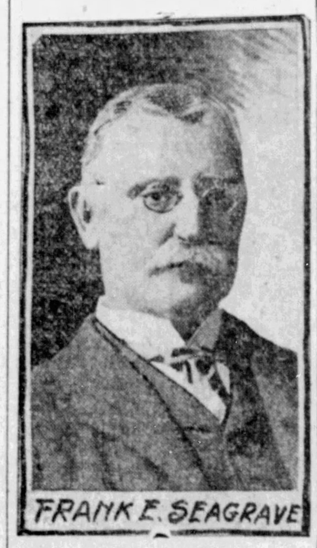
But the wonder of the Toledo & Western is the power plant and electrical equipment. Electrical experts journey all the way from New York, Boston and San Francisco to see othe miracles that are worked by B. F. Perkins, the electrician of the company.

When Mr. Perkins sent his specifications to the General Electrical Co. for the Toledo & Western plant, they created a profound sensation among electrical experts. What was supposed to be the highest authority on electrical matters stated boldly that Mr. Perkins was attempting the impossible. It was claimed that he was going contrary to established law. But Mr. Perkins revised "the established law," and by the wonderful success of the Toledo & Western power plant decreed a new order of things electrical.

Without attempting a technical description of the Toledo & Western power plant, it can be said that Mr. Perkins has taken a great stride in the reduction of the cost of producing power for transportation purposes. One 750-horse power engine in the T. & W. plant is doing the work which was formerly done by two 500-horse-power engines. Compared with the cost of producing power on steam roads, there are statistics to prove that the Toledo & Western line of 78 miles is run with less coal, for 16 hours, than it takes to move a Lake Shore 50-car freight train from Elkhart to Toledo.

Some years ago Frank E. Seagrave, the secretary of the company, insisted that electrical power could be produced cheaper for freight transportation purposes than steam. Today F. B. Perkins, electrician of the company, says: "I can prove that Seagrave's statement is correct."

EDWARD B. JOHNS.



FRANK E. SEAGRAVE

Might Have Blucher Ties.

Wellington was asked why he exclaimed at Waterloo: "Oh, that night or Blucher would come!"

"Because," replied the Iron Duke, "I wanted to give Napoleon the boot."

His smile, however, turned to a scowl when some one suggested it might have been a tie otherwise.

The Melody of Christmas.

BY ELIZABETH AYRES.

December, the month of the cold moon. The world was hushed with a miracle of snow. There was a hard glitter over the earth and the light from the electric lamps brought out the sparkle from millions of fleeting diamonds. People moved ghost-like through the streets, the sound of their footsteps stilled by the deep, white carpet covering the pavements. The city noises were muffled by the hush of snow.

"A fine Christmas eve," friends said one to another in passing. "A fine Christmas eve and a merry Christmas tomorrow," was the message of the evening.

A young man threaded his way through the throng. His face was hidden by the down-turned brim of his soft hat, and the up-turned collar of his coat. His hands were thrust deep in his pockets. He walked bent forward, his carriage revealing the depression of his mind. He passed, unheeded, the holly vendors and the soldiers of the Salvation Army standing on the corners, soliciting with tinkling bells, contributions for a charity dinner on the morrow. The sight of the pedestrians, laden with packages, whose destiny he could guess, added to his moroseness; he felt so out of the rejoicing.

He had just left a company of so-called convivial spirits. They were young men, like himself, devoid of home ties, whose role it was to sing praises unto the independent, unfettered life and to vaunt the philosophy of indifference.

Man is naturally gregarious. Sooner or later it inevitably happens that he seeks his kind. The longing for sympathy and companionship awakened by the holiday season, had brought the group together in search of cheer. Over the wine they had found it for an hour, accomplishing a temporary ascent into Paradise, succeeded by a rapid fall in Tophet later. They had grown reminiscent, talking of earlier years and of the homes which, voluntarily or through necessity, they had deserted and let slip out of their scheme of existence.

One of the number who was fond of emotions, described with much pathos the boy he used to be with his old ideals and enthusiasms. His companions could have paralleled his story had they cared to speak, but a silence followed his revelations. The demon of loneliness and dissatisfaction held them in his grasp.

"Let's curse God and die," a reckless member of the party muttered drearily.

Hating himself and his associates, he left the group and went into the street, brooding over his unhappiness. The electric sign of the restaurant where he ate his meals, attracted his attention. He looked at his watch. It was past his dinner hour, and driven by force of habit rather than by hunger, he pushed open the door. The hot air met him, heavy with the odor of food. As he entered, an orchestra of stringed instruments twanged to its final doom something meant for music. The room was glaring with light and decorated with undying palms. The mirror-faced walls reflected and multiplied the tables and people. The white woodwork and marble, the silver and glass made a brilliant dazzle.

A girl was at the table in the corner he usually occupied. He took another place with a sense of injury. He wrote his order, and while he waited for his dinner, he looked savagely at the girl. He was sitting where he had only a side view of her face, but the curve of her cheek and the poise of her head were familiar. He watched until his glance brushed hers in the mirror she was facing. He fancied an expression of recognition came into her eyes, but he was not sure, and he looked away.

"I believe she's Nellie," he thought, with an interest that made him half forget his gloom.

At the sight of her face memory began to play him tricks. She was like the little girl sweetheart of his schoolboy days. Once more he saw the village where they both were born, and the willow-shaded creek that veined the town. He saw the bridge, where in summer they loved to loiter and watch the tiny, silvery fish glinting in the clear, brown, shallow water. He remembered the song of the stream when it swirled against the smooth stones in its bed, and he remembered the orchard where June apples ripened on gnarly old personages of trees, so ancient they had taken easy attitudes and leaned politely. He thought of Nellie's long, silken braids that seemed to have caught the gleam and color of the sunshine. He glanced at the girl. She had hair of a darker shade than Nellie's, but on the coils showing beneath her hat, he could see the sunny glimmer, and the gold was on her hair where it rippled up from her neck.

He wondered why he had forgotten Nellie for so long. He had heard some time before that her family had met with reverses, forcing her to leave her home to seek employment. He recalled that his mother had written him this news, to which, in his absorption of selfish endeavor and pleasure seeking, he had paid little heed. It came to him that it had been months since he had had a letter from his mother or father. His conscience fairly twinged guiltily. His was the fault. Although his home was within easy reach, he never went there, and they had ceased to importune his coming. He despised his parents' old-fashioned, plain ways, and thought he had nothing in common with them—and he had let them see his feeling.

He turned into a changed mood. He understood he was miserable because he had been living his worst self, shutting out those to whom his love and loyalty meant everything. He had been a "good fellow" to all his world save those who were nearest and dearest. That morning he had received a package. It was from his mother, and on it she had written, "not to be opened until Christmas day." He had not remembered her with so much as a thought until this moment.

His dinner remained before him untasted. Again he looked toward the girl in the corner. She was standing, putting on her wraps, preparing to leave. She faced him. Now, he was sure she was Nellie. He left his chair hurriedly and went over to her. He held out his hand. "Nell," he said, "don't you know me?"

She flashed him a glance with the old, quick, bright, uplifting of her eyes he began to remember so well. They were clear, direct, good eyes, the eyes of the child, deepened by the earnestness of the woman. She put her hand in his, smiling her welcome.

"I knew you when you first came in," she told him without reserve.

"What are you doing here?" he questioned.

"Earning my living," she answered simply.

"Do you—do you live in the city?" he stammered, tripping and falling over the words because of his culpable ignorance.

"I have lived here for more than a year," she answered.

"And you never let me know!" he exclaimed, trying to shade his voice with reproach.

"I had no reason to think you would care," she replied. Then, lest he should think he was being censured, she hastened to explain her presence in the restaurant.

"I came down town early tonight to do my Christmas shopping and stopped in here to get something to eat. I'm going home tomorrow," she said, with a little laugh that held joy music. "Aren't you going to take Christmas dinner with your father and mother?" she inquired. Her manner was an apology as if her question was superfluous.

The man flushed and hesitated. "Why, no," he faltered. "I had not planned it. They won't be expecting me, but I don't suppose that would make any difference. Do you think they would be glad to have me come?" he asked wistfully.

"Very, very glad," she assured him. "They always ask me about you when I go home. They have never stopped missing you," she told him. "Life is slow and quiet in a village, you know. They have time to remember."

"I'm going," he declared with sudden decision, feeling a wonderful lightness of heart. "I haven't a thing to take them," he said in the next breath with a regret that was almost desperation. "May I—will you—you're going Christmas shopping—"he paused helplessly.

"Of course you may, and I will," she answered cheerily, with ready understanding of his unspoken request. "I know just what your father and mother would like to have. I'll help you get them some presents."

She fastened the fur at her throat while the young man flung on his hat and overcoat, his dinner forgotten. He followed her to the door and held it open for her to pass. When they reached the street he tucked her hand under his arm and wished she would never take it away. It seemed as if he had found the quantity that was missing in his life; the panacea for his mental ills; the safe harbor for a ship adrift on portless seas.

"Nellie, Nellie," he whispered, "can't we go back to the old days?"

We can never go back," she answered gravely, "but we can always begin again."

He laid his hand over her's where it rested against his breast.

"I'm glad I found you tonight," he told her. "I hated myself and all the world. Now everything is so different. I never want to let you go. Nellie, don't leave me. I want you, I want you. Can't you see? Will you—can you—take me—" he ended abruptly, his earnestness robbing him of speech.

The girl looked at him with her clear, direct gaze.

"You forgot me very easily," she said.

She felt his hand tremble, though his eyes met her's steadily, with the light of truth and steadfast purpose in their depths. Their pleading compelled her answer.

"Perhaps, sometime—" she did not finish her sentence, but she gave him a smile that spoke more than words.

In the shadow he bent and touched her cheek with his lips They were silent for a moment.

The dogs of hate were leashed. Overhead, the light of the eternal stars glowed against the dark blue dome of heaven. The night was filled with music. They heard the melody of Christmas a-ringing.

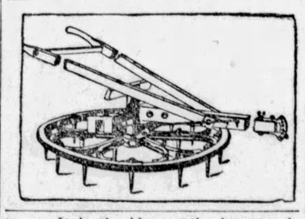
"This is a great, old world," he said at last, in a happy voice, "if you only treat it properly."

TO CURE A COLD IN ONE DAY.

Take Laxative Bromo-Quinine Tablets. This signature [Brown] on every box, 25c.

HARROW FOR ORCHARDS AND VINEYARDS

To the constant working of the soil, the puverizing of clods and removal of the weeds is due, in a large measure, the productiveness of the best orchards and vineyards, and if this work is done with an ordinary cultivator it not infrequently happens that the machine comes in contact with the trees or vines, injuring the bark or endangering the life of the



tree. It is the idea of the inventor in introducing the cultivator here illustrated to provide a machine for this class of work, which will enable the driver to run in close proximity to the trees or vines, and even come in contact with them, without injury to the bark. In manufacturing this machine a circular frame of channel iron is used as a mounting for the teeth, with spokes leading to a central hub, the latter being connected directly with the beam of the cultivator. The outer edge of the circular frame is grooved to receive a cushion, which is made by winding soft rope, felt or rubber into the groove until it projects beyond the surface of the frame and serves as a guard when the cultivator comes in contact with the bark of a tree or vine. The draft bar is pivoted on the bar of the rotary frame, and a swinging weight-arm serves to regulate the speed of rotation as the machine is drawn over the ground.

Large Doses.

"Young man," said the stern parent, as he suddenly appeared in the parlor, "don't you know that the Homeopathic Medical association has decided that kissing is unhealthy?"

"Yes, sir," faltered the ardent suitor, "but those are allopathic kisses," and then papa and the gas went out simultaneously.—Chicago News.

Was One at Home

"Marla," said the man who was always complaining about his meals, etc., "when I was hunting up in Maine the papers had an account of me being mistaken for a bear."

"I don't understand it," replied the meek little woman.

"Don't understand what?"

"Why they should have called it a mistake."

His Enjoyment.

"Do you enjoy historical novels?"

"Yes," answered Mr. Cumrox, "I like to read them and then reflect on how lucky I am to live in a time when people refrain from making such consummate fools of themselves."—Washington Star.

"The square peg in the round hole" figuratively expresses the use of means unsuited to the desired end. A great many people who have been cured of dyspepsia and other diseases of the stomach and its allied organs of digestion and nutrition by the use of Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery say: "We tried many medicines with only temporary benefit. It was not until we began the use of 'Golden Medical Discovery' that we found a complete and lasting cure."

It is undoubtedly true that Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery holds the record for the perfect and permanent cure of indigestion and other diseases of the stomach and associated organs of digestion and nutrition. It is not a palliative. It cures the cause of disease and builds up the body with solid healthy flesh, not flabby fat.

"It is with pleasure that I tell you what Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery and 'Pellets' have done for me," writes Mrs. T. M. Palmer, of Pecde, Kaufman Co., Texas. "Two years ago I was taken with stomach and bowel trouble. Everything I ate would put me in distress. I lived two weeks on milk and even that gave me pain. I felt as though I would starve to death. Three doctors attended me—one said I had dyspepsia, two said catarrh of the stomach and bowels. They attended me (one at a time) for one year. I stopped taking their medicine and tried other patent medicine; got no better, and I grew so weak and nervous my heart would flutter. I could not do any kind of work. Now I can do my house work very well; *am gaining in flesh and strength*, and can eat anything I want."

Accept no substitute for Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery.

Dr. Pierce's Common Sense Medical Adviser is sent *free* on receipt of stamps to pay expense of mailing *only*. Send 21 one cent stamps for the paper covered book, or 31 stamps for the cloth bound volume. Address Dr. R. V. Pierce, Buffalo, N. Y.

Recent Literature.

The following books have been received by The Blade from the publishers named. Inquiries about them must be sent to the latter, not to us.

From Doubleday, Page & Co., 34 Union Square, New York:

How to Attract the Birds, by Neltje Blanchan, tells, with fine illustrations, many things of interest about birds, and how to make friends with them.

The Pleasures of the Table is a large volume by Geo. H. Ellwanger, gives an account of gastronomy from antiquity to the present. It is well illustrated.

A Journey to Nature, by J. P. Mowbray, is the story of a Wall street man, who, under the doctor's orders, spends a year in a primitive county fair.

A Summer Snowflake is a volume of poems by W. D. Ellwanger, may of which have appeared in leading magazines.

Shakespeare and His Forerunners, by the late Sidney Lanier, poet and critic, in two beautiful volume, gives two sets of lectures delivered at Johns Hopkins University by the lamented author.

From the G. W. Dillingham Co., 119 West 34d st., New York:

Lionel Ardon, by Malcolm Dearborn, is a story of adventure belonging to the class called historical. It is a romance of England, beginning in the reign of Henry VIII, and extending through to that of Queen Elizabeth.

Richard Wyndham, by Frances Gordon Fane, is a novel of present day society life in New York. It is of the Duchess style of literature.

A Sleeping Memory, by E. Phillips Oppenheim, is the strange story of a scientific experiment. The scenes are placed in London. The book has an unusual motive and complicated plot.

From Harper & Bros., Franklin Square, New York:

The Conquest of Rome, by Matilde Serao, is a realistic novel of present day social and political life in the Eternal City.

The Christmas Kalends of Provence, by Thomas A. Janvier, describes the Christmas observances in the south of France.

The Reflections of Ambrosine, by Elizabeth Glyn, is a novel—a sweet love story, the scene of which is laid in England.

An Old Country House, by Richard Le Galienne, is a beautifully gotten up book which describes the adventures of the author and his wife in finding a country house for themselves.

From R. H. Russell, 3 West 29th st., New York:

Plantation Bird Legends, by Martha Young, is a new and excellent contribution to negro folk-lore.

Old Plantation Days, by Martha S. Gillow, is a volume of excellent sketches eaing with plantation life.

From the Funk & Wagnalls Co., 30 Lafayette Place, New York:

The Spirit of the Ghetto, by Hutchins Hapgood, is a study of the Russian and Galician Jews living on the east side of New York city—the largest Jewish colony in the world. Its illustrations are drawn from life.

The Sons of Glory is a translation of a volume by Adolfo Padovan, of the great men of the world who are types of genius in their particular lines. It is a fascinating work.

Swords and Ploughshares is a book of poems of purpose by B. Ernest Crosby.

From Charles Scribner's Sons, 153 Fifth ave., New York:

The Blue Flower, by Rev. Henry Van Dyke, is a volume of nine stories which are all worth reading.

Jethro Bacon, by J. F. Stimson, contains two stories, entitled Jethro Bacon and The Weaker Sex, two dramas of life's sorrows.

From Raphael Tuck & Sons, New York:

From the above firm The Blade has a vast number of holiday art novelties in the way of Christmas and New Year cards, illustrated books, booklets and calendas. High-class lithography, apt illustrations, beautiful designs and interesting text characterize their line of publications. The firm is the leading one in the United States in this line.

From Forbes & Co., Boston:

Love Sonnets of an Office Boy is a small voume of poems which are clever in their portrayal of an attack of first love in a boy.

In Merry Mood, by Nixon Waterman, is a volume of verse intended to drive away care—and it fulfills its mission.

From the Macmillan Co., 66 Fifth ave., New York:

The Splendid Idle Forties, by Gertrude Atherton, is a collection of thirteen stories of Monterey, California, before and immediaely after the American occupation in 1847.

Haunts of Ancient Peace, by Alfred Austin, the English poet laureate, is a volume of prose describing a tour of England outside the roads taveled by tourists. It is a charming volume.

From A. C. McClurg & Co., Chicago:

From the above firm come a number of desirable books for young readers. Two of these are Mayken, by Jessie Anderson, a historical story of Holland and pictures the exciting life of a very youthful heroine in a stirring period of history. Coquo and the King's Children is a tale of wonders, otherwise a fairy story with some original situations in spite of its well-worn plan.

American Literature, by Prof. Sears, is a valuable volume on colonial literature and very complete. Little, Brown & Co., Boston.

Out of Gloucester is a volume of six sea sketches by James B. Connolly, all illustrated with picture that fit the tales. Charles Scribner's Sons, 153 Fifth avenue, New York.

Little Saint Sunshine is the pathetic story of a little girl, the adopted daughter of a wealthy Irish ranchman in Texas. The Brown-Merrill Co., Indianapolis.

Richard Gordon is a novel by Alexander Black, rapid in action and never wearisome. The Lathrop Publishing Co., Boston.

The Taskmasters, by George Kibbe Turner, is an American novel of capital, labor and politics, well worth reading. McClure, Phillips & Co., 141 East Twenty-fifth street, New York.

Sun Dials and Roses of Yesterday, by Alice Morse Earle, is an unique volume, treating of sun dials, spot dials, window dials and noon marks, with a vast deal of useful information concerning them. The Macmillan Co., 66 Fifth ave., New York.

The Romance of the Commonplace, by Gelett Burgess, is a volume of essays of engaging character. Elder & Shepard, San Francisco, Cal.

Lizette, by Edward Marshall, is a novel of American life, by a young newspaper man who was seriously wounded at Las Guasimas, Cuba, while in the discharge of his duties as war correspondent, Lewis, Scribner & Co., New York.

Thoroughbreds, by W. A. Fraser, is a story of race tracks, and well worth buying and reading. McClure, Phillips & Co., 1141 East Twenty-fifth street, New York.

Vive l'Empereur, by R. S. Andrews, is a novel of French life at the close of the career of the first Napoleon. Charles Scribner's Sons, 153 Fifth avenue, New York.

Wolfville Nights, by Alfred Henry Lewis, is a volume of sketches of life on the southwestern frontier. It is as entertaining as its predecessors, and is published by the Frederick A Stokes Co., New York.

The Bashful Man and Others is the name of the initial essay which gives title to a volumne of several, all marked by delicate humor and quaint philosophy. The Blue Sky Press, Chicago.

Tower or Throne, by Harriet T. Comstock, is a novel of the girlhood of Queen Elizabeth, Little, Brown & Co., Boston.

Religious Life in America, by Ernest Hamlin Abbott, is the record of a three-months' journey over the United States which shows the religious conditions as they now exist. The Outlook Co., 13 Astor place, New York.

War and Warship is the title of a lengthy poem by Henry Bedlow, referring to the revolts of 1848. The Truth Seeker Co., New York.

Bikey the Skycycle, is a wonderful book of the adventures of Jimmieboy, published by The Riggs Publishing Co., New York.

The Social Comedy, from the Life Publishing Co., New York, is a handsome holiday gift. The comedy is presented by something over a hundred full-page pictures in line and half-tone drawings.

Bayon Triste, by Miss J. H. Nicholls, is a charming novel of plantation life in Louisiana, published by A. S. Barnes & Co., 56 East Tenth street, New York.

Beyond the Requiems is a volume of excellent poems by Louis Alexander Robinson, of California. Published by A. M. Roberston, San Francisco, Cal.

PRIZE FIGHTER'S HEART.

Coffee Shown to Be the Cause of His Weak Heart.

Frank Wallis, the Illinois champion featherweight, says:

"Nearly all my life I drank coffee, and it finally put me in such a condition that training for any fight was almost impossible.

My breathing was poor and slight exertion always made me very tired. I could not understand it, for I was otherwise well and strong, until one day, in training quarters, a friend and admirer of mine asked me if I drank coffee. I told him 'yes,' and he said that was what ailed me.

This was two weeks before an important fight of mine was due. He explained how coffee affected the heart and nerves and told me of the good qualities of Postum Food Coffee. I immediately commenced to use it in place of coffee. The result was wonderful. My nervousness left me, my breathing bothered me no more, my confidence returned, and I was as good as ever in a short time.

I returned victor of the fight, which I am confident I would not have been had I continued the use of coffee."

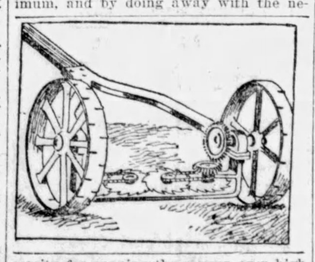
THE CHRISTMAS BAZAAR.

Abed is not the place to stay
When Santa comes and goes away,
Except to use for the display
Of our new dolls and toys.

So spread the sheet across the rail
And make a counter: "Not for sale"
Label the gifts, then quickly hail
Those sleepy-heads—the boys!

GRASS OR GRAIN CUTTER

While it is hardly the season of the year to trot out the lawn mower for actual work, we are nevertheless, constrained to present an illustration of a new mower, which has several novel features to recommend it over the mowers already in the field. The man who cuts the grass will remember that every time he let the work go too long it was necessary to run the mower over some parts of the lawn several times before all the long blades were down, or else leave the lawn with a ragged appearance. The principal advantage of this new machine is that, no matter how long the grass gets, the first cutting will bring it all down to the common level; in fact, the longer the grass the better the cutters will work. As will be seen, the cutters are circular, toothed wheels, revolving in horizontal planes and actuated by gear wheels set on the inner ends of the drive-wheel shafts. These cutters are in reality nothing but a set of circular saws, and their action is exactly the same, sawing the grass blades off as the mower is pushed over the lawn. The saw spindles are provided with ball bearings, thus reducing the friction to a minimum, and by doing away with the ne-



cessity for running the mower over high grass more than once this machine should save much labor for its owner.

ECZEMA, NO CURE, NO PAY.

Your druggist will refund your money if PAZO OINTMENT fails to cure Ringworm, Tetter, Old Ulcers and Sores, Pimples and Blackheads on the face, and all skin diseases. 50 cents.

A Painful Joke.

Ther is a lack of humor that is humorous, according to ex-Senator Pettigrew, of South Dakota. An instance of it occurred at a little informal society affair which the senator attended in Washington.

"Conundrums got to going around," said the senator, "and I could only think of one, which I used with apologies. It was 'What's the difference between a man living outdoors in the winter and a dog?' The answer is, a man puts on an overcoat and the dog pants.

"Everybody politely laughed. But a man's sins do follow him. A few nights afterward I was at a dinner where one of the guests was a young woman who had heard me propound my conundrum. She remembered and told it, crediting me with the ownership of 'the clever thing.' No one guessed it. In a glee at the privilege, the young woman announced the answer.

"'Why the man puts on an overcoat and the dog trousers.' Every one was puzzled. I leaned over and whispered to the young woman, setting her right.

"'Oh, yes, I forgot,' she said. 'It's pantaloons instead of trousers.'"—New York Times.

The Poor Druggist.

"Got any almanacs?"

"Here are two or three."

"Can I use your telephone?"

"Help yourself."

"And have you a directory?"

"You will find it on the other counter."

"Well, I'd like a little piece of licorice root for the baby."

"Here you are."

"Now, where can I dry my feet?"

"Sorry, but the fire is out."

"Fire out? Why, you are the most unaccommodating druggist I ever saw."—Chicago News.

Running No Risk.

Farmer Crawfoot (excitedly)—Look here, doctor, I want you to come over an' see that city chap an' vaccinate him or give him antitoxin or sometihin.

Rural Doctor—What's the trouble, Zeke?

Farmer Crawfoot—Why, I heard him say he was suffering with ennui an' we don't want any strange diseases to gain foothold around here.—Chicago News.

And There Are Others.

Swiggs—Somehow I have failed to meet with any success in my undertakings.

Briggs—That's easily accounted for, Swiggs—Well, what's the answer?

Briggs—Too many bears in your way.—Chicago News.

ELECTED IN OLD M'KINLEY DISTRICT.

James Kennedy, recently elected to congress from the Eighteenth Ohio district, known as the "McKinley district," will be one of the most conspicuous figures in the new body. There is always an especial interest taken in the man who is sent to represent the "McKinley

HON. JAMES KENNEDY.

district," and in Mr. Kennedy the three counties will have a representative who in every way measures up to the highest standard.

He is both physically and mentally a giant. He comes from a family of illustrious men, his brothers being prominent in the engineering world and noted for their ability. Julian Kennedy, the celebhas been filled of late by Hon. Robert W. Tayler, of Lisbon. Mr. Kennedy will be a firm friend of the President in his campaign against the "trusts." He has always been a consistent believer in the theory that the rich should pay their just share of the taxes. It was through his efforts that the Ohio steel plant—a constituent property of the United States Steel corporation—was taken into the city limits of Youngstown, and made to pay city taxes. This plant, when built, was owned by local capitalists, and as an inducement to have it locate in Youngstown, the council redistricted the ward boundaries and placed It in a "shoe string district" outside the city. When it was purchased by the "trust" Kennedy began his agitation to have it brought back into the city, and a few months ago was successful in having the council pass the desired legislation.

Mr. Kennedy was born and reared in Mahoning county, being forty-nine years of age. He is an able lawyer and an orator of note. His speeches at the state bar meetings are always interesting and are models of originality. He has been a resident of Youngstown for years. His friends believe that he will measure up to all the requirements of a congressman from one of the most famous districts in the state if not of the country.

Grove's Black Root Liver Pills.

Made from an active principle obtained from Black Root. They act on the liver equal to calomel and leave no bad after effects. No griping, no sick stomach. Will cure chronic constipation. Price 25 cents.

Willing to Work.

"Although I hate work," mused Idle Tom, "der is one job I wouldn't mind takin'."

"What job is dat?" queried Dusty Den.

"Why, colorin' meerschaum pipes."—Philadelphia Record.

Rubbing It In.

He—If you wefuse me I shall put a bullet thwough my bwain.

She—The idea! How could you?

He—I suppose you think I'm talking like a cwazy man.

She—Oh, no; like a sharp-shooter.—Philadelphia Press.

DENT'S Toothache Gum

A SWELL AFFAIR

WILL STOP THAT TOOTHACHE.

Its application gives relief instantly. Not a chewing gum. Should be carried for emergencies. Be sure to get DENT'S; avoid useless and cheap imitations. All druggists, or by mail, 15 cents.

C. S. DENT & CO., Detroit, Mich.

THE FARMSTEAD.

BE FRIENDLY! WRITE TO US!

The editor of the Farmstead bids his readers a Merry Christmas, and many of them. Just now is the time when the letters to this department are the fewest. The editor asks that his readers will send in letters—helpful ones, telling of some new "kink" in farm work, or the management of animals, or the growing of orchard trees, etc., which will be of use to tens of thousands of readers of this department. Most of our friends do not use the Farmstead unless they get into trouble, and want help. And, as a rule they get it. Right here we wish to extend most cordial thanks to those who answer queries in this department. It shows the deep interest they take, and, more than that, it shows that they are animated by the spirit of the Golden Rule, and do to others as they would be done by. Be not weary in well doing; do not wait for some one to ask a question you can answer out of your own experience, but sit down and write the Farmstead a letter on any topic of interest to the farmers, the stock growers, the orchardists, the small fruit growers, the market gardeners. Be friendly! Write to us! We appreciate ever letter. And, dear friends, write only on one side of the paper!

Angora Goats.

Editor Farmstead:—Where can I get the Angora goat? and do they multiply as fast as sheep?—A. M. D., New York.

First, the editor of the Farmstead is not allowed to give addresses, such as those of breeders of Angora goats; either through this column or by letter, because it is advertising; and if people desire to sell to the great Blade family, they must advertise in its columns, and pay therefor. As to the second query, ye shall be glad to permit any replies from our friends.

Bad Hoofs in Horses.

Editor Farmstead:—I am a reader of your valuable paper. Mr. H., of Geneva, Neb., has asked for information along the line of my profession, I being a horse shoer and horse farrier for thirty years, and have for the last twenty years made the treatment of wounds and diseases of the feet and limbs of the most noble animal, the horse, a specialty, and thoroughly understanding the anatomy of the feet. I will be pleased to give this gentleman the required information. I would say, first, in regard to the swelling of the legs, if his horse has been driven long barefooted, that the tenderness of the feet may cause the legs to swell. If that is the case, shoeing will remove the cause. If that is not the case, bathe the legs with hot water, using plenty of salt, and rub well; bandage loosely; feed branmash once a day and give daily exercise. Second, in regard to the split hoof, if the hoof is split from the top to the bottom, cut the crack out well, making it from a half to five-eighths of an inch wide; then move the ground surface of that portion of the hoof so that the pressure will be taken away from the crack. If the hoof is broken from the top, part of the way down, cut the crack entirely out in V shape, being very careful to take away all of the dead hoof, filing the hoof very thin on each side of the crack, then using an ointment to keep it soft and promote the growth of the hoof. If Mr. H. will follow out these instructions I will guarantee him a sound horse; would be glad to answer all questions through the Farmstead regarding this case or any others in my line.—H. M., Ind.

A Horse's Sore Foot.

Editor Farmstead:—Noting a letter referring to a sore foot in a horse, I wish to say: Take blue vitriol, dissolve in a little water, pour it on his knee, let it run down the leg. Take some rosin, pound it fine, mix with the yolk of an egg and tie over the foot.—J. F. Bring, West Virginia.

Old Corn.

Editor Farmstead:—I have two ears of Indian squaw corn which I have had 34 or 35 years. The year I am not able to say exactly, but some time between the years 1866 and 1867. Whether it will grow I am not able to say. It looks all right, only it is a little moth eaten.—J. M. B., Browns, Ill.

Measuring Hay in Stack.

Editor Farmstead:—In reply to C. A. B., Fruita, Cal., will say that hay is sold here altogether by measurement. The rule is short, and gives general satisfaction. Subtract the base from the overline; divide the result by two, which will give height of stack (not the square). Then multiply the length by the width and that by the height. Divide by 422, the number of cubic feet in a ton, allowing 30 days for hay to settle. Example: Overline, 35 feet; width or base, 15 feet, and length 50 feet. Solution: 35, minus 15, equals 20; 20, divided by 2, equals 10; 50 times 15 times 10 equals 7,500 cubic feet; 7,500 divided by 422 equals the number of tons in the stack.—B. F. S., Paoli, N. D.

Lice on Dogs.

Editor Farmstead:—If M. W. E., of Wayne, N. Y., will rub powdered hellebore well into his dog's hair the lice will all leave. It is a sure cure.—M. B., Niles, Mich.

To Keep Cider.

Editor Farmstead:—If W. R. S., of Mardin, Pa., will scald his cider hot enough, so it does not boil, it will keep for all time. The more it boils the less the flavor. I have cider fixed this way that has kept two years, and is now as sweet as when it was made.—M. B., Niles, Mich.

Distemper Cure Wanted.

Editor Farmstead:—The horses in this vicinity are suffering considerably with distemper. If any one has a preventative or remedy for this malady, please publish it.—C. L. E., New, W. Va.

Cow Loses Milk.

Editor Farmstead:—I have a valuable cow which gives very rich milk, but she loses her milk. Can any one give me a remedy through your paper, and oblige an old subscriber?—H. H. B., Columbiana, O.

Hard Wood Ceiling.

Editor Farmstead:—Will someone who has had experience tell me if hardwood can be used to ceil a room and leave a smooth surface to paper on? Should the timber be seasoned first and what kind of timber will warp least?—C. D. Z., Harwood, Mo.

Who Can Tell?

Editor Farmstead:—Is a 3-year-old steer, which has a wen over his jaw, fit to eat? The steer is hearty and in good condition. Is there any cure for a wen?—Subscriber, S. D.

Handling Skunks.

Editor Farmstead:—Will some reader please give the best way to handle skunks and to remove their pelts so that the handler may be free from the smell on hands or clothing?—E. T., Lucerne, Kan.

Double Sweeney.

Editor Farmstead:—I have a horse, 12 years old, that was sweenied on both sides. The right side has gotten well, but the left side has gone to what I think is called a stiff shoulder. Will someone please give a remedy. It is of about a year's standing.—H. G., Applin, Mich.

Worms in Horses.

Editor Farmstead:—Will some reader tell me through the Farmstead how I can get rid of worms in horses? My horses seem to be full of small worms and I cannot do anything that will rid them. Any information in regard to it through The Blade will be gratefully received.—M. Y., New York.

FATTENING STOCK.

Results of Experiments at the Nebraska Agricultural Station.

Twenty yearling steers, mostly grade Herefords of good quality, were divided into four lots. Lots 1 and 2 had been fed grain on grass during the preceding summer and were in much heavier flesh than Lots 3 and 4, which had only grass during the summer. One lot of each kind was given a wheat ration and one of each a corn ration. While the experiment was primarily intended to test the feeding value of wheat as compared with corn, it also furnishes interesting data on the relative economy of a long feeding period compared with a shorter one.

The experiment proper was begun December 1, 1901, and closed May 3, 1902. The experiment was divided into two periods, the first eleven weeks and the second twelve weeks. During the first period the rations were 80 per cent ground wheat and 20 per cent bran, as against 80 per cent ground corn and 20 per cent bran. The roughness consisted of alfalfa hay in both cases. During the second period these rations were slightly modified, one being made 70 per cent wheat, 15 per cent corn, and 15 per cent oil meal, the other 70 per cent corn, 15 per cent wheat and 15 per cent oil meal.

The average amount of food consumed and gains made by each steer in each of the four lots during the entire period of twenty-three weeks is as follows:

The steers in Lot 1 averaged, December 1, 1901, 1,074 pounds. Each consumed 2,248 pounds of grain, mostly wheat, and 1,397 pounds of roughness, mostly alfalfa hay, and gained 294 pounds. In this lot 12.4 pounds of feed was required to make one pound of gain.

The steers in Lot 2 averaged 1,020 pounds each and consumed 2,248 pounds of grain, mostly corn, and 1,397 pounds of roughness, mostly alfalfa. The average gain of each steer in Lot 2 was 279 pounds. In this lot 13.28 pounds of food were required to make one pound of gain.

The steers in Lots 3 and 4 as previously stated were given no grain during the previous summer and therefore weighed less December 1. The steers in Lot 3 averaged 985 pounds each. They were given the same kind of rations as Lot 1 but consumed 2,243 pounds of grain, mostly wheat, and 1,392 pounds of roughness. They gained 349 pounds each. In this case 11.11 pounds of feed was consumed for one pound of gain.

The steers in Lot 4 averaged 975 pounds each and consumed 2,424 pounds of grain, mostly corn, as in Lot 2, and 1,382 pounds of roughness. These steers gained 326 pounds each and required 11.8 pounds of feed for one pound of gain.

Making an average of Lots 1 and 3, we find in the case of the wheat steers 11.35 pounds of feed was required for one pound of gain. Averaging lots 2 and it 4 was found that the corn steers consumed 12.48 pounds of feed for one pound of gain. This shows that the wheat ration proved 5 per cent. more efficient than the corn ration.

By making an average of the steers in lots 1 and 2, and those in lots 3 and 4, it is found that the summer grain-fed steers required during the winter 12.8 pounds of feed for one pound of gain, while those in lots 3 and 4 required 11.42 pounds of feed for one pound of gain. This means that the steers which were grain-fed only during the winter made 11 per cent. larger gains for the food consumed than those which were grain-fed during both summer and winter.

In the financial statement as published in the bulletin, we find each steer in lot 1, on wheat, credited with a net profit of $8.97. Those in lot 2, on corn, are credited with $11.30 each. The steers in lot 3 give a net profit of $20.29 and those in lot 4 of $18.97. In figuring profits, wheat was valued at $1.10 per hundred and corn at $1 per hundred.

The profit on pigs, which fed on droppings, amounted to about $4 per steer and was credited to the steers in the financial statement. This emphasizes the importance of providing pigs to follow cattle even when the cattle are given ground feed.

Forty-eight pigs weighing about 110 pounds each were divided into eight lots, six in a lot. After a preliminary feeding of nine days, they were put on their respective rations October 21, 1901. During the experimental period of thirteen weeks following this date, the food consumed in the production of one pound of gain on the different rations was as follows:

Lot 1, 6.37 pounds of whole dry wheat.
Lot 2, 5.75 pounds of soaked wheat.
Lot 3, 5.59 pounds of ground wheat.
Lot 4, 5.86 pounds of ground wheat and corn, equal parts.
Lot 5, 6.21 pounds of ground wheat and rye, equal parts.
Lot 6, 6.12 pounds of ground wheat and shorts, equal parts.
Lot 7, 6.09 pounds of ground corn.
Lot 8, 6.24 pounds of ground rye.

At the time this experiment was conducted, wheat and corn were each worth 55 cents per bushel, rye 50, and wheat shorts $18 per ton. The cost of grinding the wheat and rye was eight cents per hundred and the corn six cents. At these prices the net profits were greatest on soaked wheat, amounting in this case to $1.30 per pig, as compared with $1.07 on ground wheat. In this experiment, corn at 55 cents per bushel gave a net profit of only 60 cents per pig. It was therefore the most expensive food used. The ground wheat produced 9 per cent. larger gains than the ground corn, pound for pound, and the ground corn 2 per cent. larger gains than the ground rye.

Wheat kernels are so small and hard that many passed through the animals undigested, and unless first ground or soaked this grain is unsatisfactory for feeding. Of the two methods, soaking is more economical unless the grinding can be done for 2 cents per hundred.

REFORESTING PINE.

A South Carolina Lumber Firm Wishes to Keep Up Its Supply.

The lumber firm, E. P. Burton & Co., of Charleston, S. C., has asked for the help of the Bureau of Forestry of the Agricultural department in managing 60,000 acres of pine forest about thirty miles northwest of Charleston, on the Cooper river. The company's mills have a capacity of 20,000,000 board feet a year, and the company wishes to know, among other things, whether the yearly increase in growth of its present forest is sufficient to supply its mills. If it should be found not to be sufficient, the company desires to know how many additional acres are required to make it so.

A party under F. E. Olmsted has been sent to the field to collect the figures and make the calculations necessary for the working plan that will answer the company's inquiries. The forest consists mainly of loblolly, with some longleaf and spruce pine. It contains also some large swamps with heavy stands of cypress, gum and oaks. Logging is done by steam skidders. The logs are transported by railroad to Cooper river and rafted to Charleston. The working plan will include an estimate of the present stand and what it is producing yearly, an estimate of the number of additional acres necessary to afford the mills sustained supply; a system of protection from fire; and certain silvicultural work connected with the study of the growth of trees under different conditions. The party will be occupied during December, January and February. Owing to the rapid growth of the pines in the virgin forest and the ease with which natural reproduction is obtained, the opportunity is exceptionally favorable for the application of practical forestry.

How a Jas. Boss Watch Case is made

Gold Outside — Stiffening Metal — Gold Inside

The Jas. Boss Stiffened Gold Watch Case is made of two layers of Solid Gold with a layer of Stiffening Metal between welded and rolled together into one solid sheet of metal. The Jas. Boss Case is a Solid Gold Case for all practical purposes.

Question Bureau.

RULES—1.—Real name and address must be written with every question. 2.—Only one question at a time. 3.—Don't ask for addresses of persons or firms, nor where to buy or sell anything, for such answers would be free advertising. 4.—Don't ask about the reliability of any person or firm. 5.—We reserve the right to reject any question whose answer would not be of general interest; and will answer no mathematical problems, questions of law, nor concerning prices of coins. 6.—No answers by mail.

The Regular Army.

"To what number has the United States army been reduced?"—A. B. C., Pittsford, Michigan.

The army bill of 1899 provides for a minimum, in the regular army, of, in round numbers, 57,000 men, but giving the President authority, in his discretion, to enlarge to practically 100,000 men. When the United States volunters went out of service, the regular army was near the maximum. The reductions since then, by order of the President, have reduced the army to the minimum.

You must recollect that the terms of enlistment of regular soldiers are ending every day; that there are new men enlisting constantly, and that the absolute strength of the army is never the same for two days together.

Chambers of Commerce.

"Will you please give the duties of a chamber of commerce and board of trade? Do their members receive pay?"—J. T. W., Windom, Wash.

The two terms, generally speaking, mean the same thing. A board of trade or chamber of commerce is a voluntary association of merchants and others for the protection and promotion of the commercial interests of the city, district or country in which associations are formed. They may accomplish their ends in various ways, such as by presenting petitions to legislative bodies, by collecting and publishing statistics, by combination with other associations, etc. Also the same names are often applied to exchanges, such as a stock exchange like that in New York, or to an association of brokers, in the sense of professional buyers and sellers. For instance, a stock exchange is an association of brokers in shares, bonds or other securities of corporations, nations, states, counties of municipalities and in negotiable certificates representing commodities of trade. Membership in a stock exchange is usually limited, and in a number of exchanges a "seat" is the property, not only of an active broker, but also of his heirs or assignees.

The trade of brokers, in the sense of professional buyers, sellers and lenders on security, using for the purpose their own money or that of customers, is of ancient origin. Such trade was carried on in the Roman Forum during the days of the republic. The use for this purpose of the porticoes of the adjacent temples of Minerva and Mars Ultor is mentioned frequently by Martial, Juvenal and other Latin writers, and their references assume a long established institution. In the later middle ages exchanges for the transaction of general business was established usually by national or municipal governments. The Royal Exchange in London, founded under Elizabeth by Sir Thomas Gresham, was of this character, and was suggested by similar institutions already established in some of the German commercial cities. But these were not stock exchanges, and were never used as such except when, in the infancy of stock trading, a part of the general market space was used by brokers in securities. The stock brokers' business was long conducted either in the Royal Exchange in London or later in the coffee houses of the adjacent "Change" alley. In 1801 the London Stock Exchange was founded in Capel court, where it has continued ever since.

Selling Liquor to Indians.

Editor Blade:—In answer to the question of E. J. V., in your issue of December 11, there is a United States law prohibiting the sale of liquor to Indians in a state. All trials for violations of this law are before United States courts, and there have been numbers of them in this state wher liquor has been sold out of reservations.—H. C. P., Orting, Wash.

Hypnotism.

"What is hypnotism? Has it anything in connection with so-called spiritualism? Is it generally accepted as a fact by the leading minds of the world?"—H. L. F., Burton, Ill.

Hypnotism is the modern term for a very obscure class of phenomena which, fifty years ago, was exploited by Mesmer, a Frenchman, and called "Mesmerism." It has no connection with what is called spiritualism. In brief, it is a power which certain persons seem to possess to influence the minds of certain other people—the latter being of weak will power and comparatively low mentality. It is a subject that only those of the medical profession, who have made a careful study of mental phenomena, should undertake to examine, for the reason that experimentation is always injurious to the subject—not necessarily in a physical sense, but as to his mental powers. We therefore refuse to answer any questions as to its methods, because it is exploited by a large class of fakers and swindlers. Unless a person is an expert in the medical profession, and especially in mental phenomena, should not meddle with it.

The Mad Mullah.

"What caused the 'Mad Mullah' to attack the British?"—H. Cowles, Neb.

The word mullah or mollah, is an Arabic term, which is a Mohammedan complimentary title given to religious dignitaries, and to teachers and expounders of the law of the Koran. Naturally, these men are fanatical, and often go to the extreme in expounding Mohammedan doctrines. The "mad mullah" is one of these. It is not to say that he is really mad, but that he pushes the teaching of the fanatical tenets of his faith to the extreme. For instance, all who do not believe in Mohammed and his teachings are "infidels," "heathen dogs," and deserving of death. The English, in their work of introducing the methods of modern civilization and progress among the people of Egypt, and the Soudan naturally come into conflict constantly with the fanatical ones of the Mohammedan faith. Trouble can arise, amid the grossly ignorant Mohammedans, who are a great majority, from the most trifling causes. For instance, the great Sepoy meeting of 1857 in India, arose from the fact that the native troops in the service of the British government were served with oiled cartridges. That was in the days before copper cartridges and breech-loaders were in common use. The muskets were muzzle-loaders. The ball had attached to it a cartridge of thin paper, containing the powder. In loading the musket, the soldier bit off the rear end of the cartridge, so that the powder could eb poured down the barrel. The ramrod was then used to drive the bullet home, the paper of the cartridge serving as wadding. The paper of the cartridges was oiled with tallow, to keep the powder from getting damp. The fanatics declared that the paper was oiled with lard. The hog is an unclean animal, and it is forbidden to eat it, by their religion. The assertion that the British government, by using lard, caused the Sepoy soldiers to violate a religious tent, caused one of the most horrible of modern outbreaks. The uprising under the mad Mullah was of this nature, though not from the same cause. It is simply the maddened outburst of a deluded, barbarous, fanatical people against the march of modern progress.

Concerning Hell.

Recently we printed a question under the above heading with a short reply. Up to date we have received six letters on the subject, all intended for publication. Were we to print them, they would take over two columns of this type. We wish to state the lines on which the bureau is run, and why we cannot give space to these letter—or to any letters which are simply discussions.

The purpose of the bureau is to state facts. The opinions of the editor on any topic cut no figure, and he solves no puzzles of conscience for any subject, unless it cannot be avoided. In answering the original question referred to above, we simply stated that the Bible gives no clear teaching as to the origin of hell, and therefore there is no way of answering. Now, all these six letters are discussions of the probable origin of the idea of hell—and that was not involved in the original question. All the discussion we could print would not change any one's opinion, and would be profitless. We will not discuss theological questions, nor can we give room to mere speculations, either of the editor or of anyone else. Somewhere friends, we always have more questions than we have room to answer, and we must confine replies to facts as nearly as possible.

The Strike Commission.

C. B. W., Continental, O.: The strike commission, appointed by President Roosevelt, is as follows:

Brigadier General John M. Wilson, U. S. A., retired (late chief of engineers, U. S. A.,) Washington, as an omicer of the engineer corps of either the military or naval service of the United States.

Mr. E. W. Parker, Washington, as an expert mining engineer. Mr. Parker is chief statistician of the coal division of the United States geological survey and the editor of the Engineering and Mining Journal of New York.

Hon. George Gray, Wilmington, Del., as a judge of a United States court.

Mr. E. T. Clark, Cedar Rapids, Ia., grand chief of the Order of Railway Conductors, as a sociologist, the president assuming that for the purposes of such a commission the term sociologist means a man who has thought and studied deeply on social questions and has practically applied his knowledge.

Bishop John L. Spalding, of Peoria, Ill. The President has added Bishop Spalding's name to the commission.

Hon. Carroll D. Wright, United States commissioner of labor.

This commission has been taking testimony ever since, and it not yet through. It is impossible to find space for a synopsis of the very voluminous testimony—which, however, will all be reviewed in the findings of the commission when it concludes its labors.

Contested Seats.

"If the seat of a representative in congress is contested, the contestee loses his seat, do both the contestant and contestee receive pay from the government until the contestee loses his seat, and does the contestee have a voice in congress until he loses his seat?"—N. P. G., Corbet, Va.

The man who has the certificate of election is sworn in and is a full member of the house until he is unseated by the contest. He receives the salary for that time also. The house, as a rule, makes an appropriation for the contestant's expenses, usually $2,500, and he gets this, whether he gains his contest or not.

Longest and Shortest.

The editor is obliged to a number of persons who sent in the longest and shortest verses of the Bible, and to A. J. B., Wundle's X Roads, Tenn., who sends the following:

The longest verse in the Bible is the 9th verse of the 8th chapter of Estner.

The shortest verse is the 35th verse of the 11th chapter of St. John.

The middle verse is the 8th verse of the 118th Psalm.

The 21st verse of the 7th chapter of Ezra contains all the letters of the alphabet except the letter "j".

The word "reverend" occurs but once in the Bible, which is in the 9th verse of the 111th Psalm.

The word "and" occurs 46,277 times.

The word "Lord" occurs 1,855 times.

The Bible contains 66 books, 1,189 chapters, 31,173 verses, 773,746 words and 3,566,480 letters.

The Revolver.

"Who invented the revolving pistol and the navy pistol? What is the difference?"—H. R., Davis City, Iowa.

The first practical revolving pistol, or revolver, was invented by Samuel Colt, of Hartford, Conn., who took out his first patent in 1835. Since then there have been many patents taken out by different persons for revolvers, and they are made by a number of different firms. The "navy pattern" is simply the pattern of the Colt pistol adapted for use in the United States navy. The latest and most modern repeating pistols are not revolvers at all, but carry 6 to 8 cartridges in a magazine, like the Mauser or Krag-Jorgensen rifles.

Buying Government Bonds.

"Will you kindly explain the process to go through in order to convert money into government bonds, the rate of interest paid, and if they are non-assessable?"—H. F. S., Illinois.

All the issues of government bonds were sold by the government, and are owned by private parties. Hence they must be bought of the persons owning them. The market for such bonds is New York city. Any national bank will act for you in purchasing such bonds as you desire. On Monday, Dec. 22, government bonds were quoted as follows in New York: Registered 2 per cent bonds, 107½; coupon, 108¾; 3 per cents, registered or coupon, 107½; new 4 per cents, registered or coupon, 135. These are the principal issues. The quotation means the price you will have to pay. Thus, if you buy the 3 per cent bonds last named, you will pay $107.50 for a $100 bond. The cashier of the bank will give you all necessary information.

Flags Over Schoolhouses.

"What is or was the authority for United States flags to be erected over school houses?"—J. L. T., Rudolph, O.

Here in Ohio, and in other states which did the same thing, the authority was a law enacted by the general assembly of the state, requiring it to be done.

Clara Barton.

"I am desirous of writing an oration on the life of Clara Barton. Has her biography ever been published?"—V. H., Atlanta, Ill.

Miss Clara Barton was born at Oxford Mass., in 1834. During the civil war she did relief work on battlefields, and organized search work for missing men, for the carrying on of which congress voted $15,000. She laid out the grounds of the national cemetery at Andersonville. She went to Europe and served with the Red Cross in the Franco-Prussian war, at Strasburg in 1870, and at Paris in 1871. She secured the adoption of the Geneva Red Cross treaty by the United States in 1882. She represented the United States in all international conferences—at Geneva in 1884, Carlsruhe in 1887, Rome in 1892, and Vienna in 1897. She distributed relief in the Russian famine of 1892, and to the Armenians in 1896. At the request of President McKinley she carried relief to Cuba in 1898; did personal field work in the Spanish war, and instituted Red Cross relief at Galveston, after the great disaster of August, 1900. When the American Red Cross was incorporated by congress in 1900, she was made president, which office she held until 1904. At the recent annual meeting, on account of her advanced age, she was made honorary president, and Mrs. John A. Logan was elected active president.

Greek Athletic Records.

"Now that the Olympic games are revived, and the next one to be held in Chicago, please tell me whether the records made in the ancient Greek or the Olympic games in jumping, running, vaulting, throwing weights and other competitions excelled those made by modern athletes at Paris in 1900?"—A. W., Carthage, Ill.

The question was submitted to Thomas D. Seymour, professor of Greek at Yale university, who knows more about such things than any other man, living or dead, and he says that "since the Greeks had no watches, we cannot compare the speed of their athletes with that of our sprinters. They had no pole vaulting, but they used weights in jumping and seem to have done great things. The record for the long jump is 55 feet, but modern athletes insist that this must have been a 'hop, skip and jump,' since they can't do anything like it. The old Greeks could 'put the shot' father than we. Of stories of brute strength, like grasping the hoof of one bull with one hand and of another bull with the other hand, and mastering them both, the old Greeks had more to tell than we. The best blood of the nation went into their athletics for a larger time than into ours. They did not have so many studies to worry them and keep them from athletic success."

An Idea.

"What is an idea? Are the words idea, notion and concept synonymous?"—E. D., Scotland, Ind.

The trouble is, that writers on mental philosophy make their own special definitions for such terms to differentiate them more clearly, but such distinctions do not meet universal acceptance. The latest definitions by lexicographers are:

Idea—Any product of mental apprehension or activity, considered as an object of knowledge or thought.

Concept—A general notion or idea, embracing all the attributes common to the individuals that make up a class.

Notion—A mental apprehension of something known or imagined; as a notion of deity.

Origin of Newspapers.

"Will you please tell me where the first newspaper was printed and give the location?"—E. E., Lawrence, Mich.

The newspaper was an evolution, not a sudden invention. Even in the city of ancient Rome, before the invention of printing, they had the Acta Diurna (Doings of the Day), which were daily written official reports of public occurences posted up in the Forum. In modern Europe the newspapers were preceded by written news summaries. The first series of regular printed weekly newspapers known in England was called "The Weekly News from Italy, Germanie, etc.," printed in London, in 1622. The first attempt at printed reports of parliament was made in 1641; the first advertisement was inserted in 1648, and shipping intelligence first appeared in 1667.

French newspapers date their origin from the Mercure francois (French Mercury), in 1605. The first daily political newspaper in that country was the Journal de Paris, 1777. Italian newspapers are traced to written peridicals, called Gazzetta, issued at Venice in the sixteenth century. The first regular newspaper in Germany was probably a weekly journal published in Frankfort in 1615.

There has been much controversy as to which country printed the first regular newspaper. It is probable that this precedence should be given to Belgium. It has been established by the antiquaries that a certain Abraham Verhoven of Antwerp obtained in 1605 from the Archduke and Duchess Albert and Isabelle the privilege of printing a news sheet. On the strength of this it is proposed to hold a great tercentenary celebration in Antwerp some time during the year 1905. It would be interesting to compare the primitive efforts of the journalist of 1605 with the immense sheets of new which the world calls for today. Three hundred years ago news traveled but slowly, and each community was, in a sense isolated. But today if some potentate of Central Africa accidentally sneeze the world wants to know just what caused the titillation in the regal nostrils and wants minute particulars at that.

The Erie Canal.

"Please give a description of the Erie Canal—the length, width and depth of water."—W. E. H., Crystal, Mich.

The Erie Canal is 363 miles long. It connects the Hudson river at Albany and Troy, N. Y., with Lake Erie at Buffalo. It was begun in 1817, opened in 1825, and its original cost was $7,602,000. The canal has been enlarged since its first construction to accommodate larger boats, its waters being 70 feet at the surface, 56 feet at the bottom, and 7 feet depth of water.

Toledo's Time.

F. S. V., Pinegrove, O., will accept thanks for the correction given below. It, nowever, does not affect the fact that in Toledo 8:30 standard time is considered the equivalent of 9:00 mean city time, and that not only the schools but all other employers of labor use the half-hour, because of its convenience, as the difference:

"In the Weekly Blade of December 18, you say the difference between central standard time and local mean time at Toledo is 28 minutes. The error seems peculiar because you live in Toledo and should be familiar with Toledo time. The difference at Toledo is less than 26 minutes—about 25 4-5 minutes. I enjoy reading the Question Bureau and send this correction because the 28 minute error is so firmly fixed in the minds of hundreds of your readers that I think The Blade should aid in removing it instead of fixing it deeper."

Chinese in America.

"In your issue of Nov. 6 you answered my question as to the Chinese in America, saying 'that is nothing whatever known as to the discovery of America by the Chinese.' You then go on to speak of the origin of man. Your answer is interesting, but not responsive to my second question. I do not ask as to the origin of the races, for that is a much-mooted question. I have somewhere read a work in which the author makes a strong claim that America, or rather this continent, was in very ancient times known to the Chinese. Can you give any information on the subject and oblige a constant reader of the Blade?"—J. W. G., Dunning, Nebraska.

Morris K. Jessup conceived the idea in 1896 that the question could be settled whether the American Indian was of Asiastic origin or not, whether he came to this part of the hemisphere from across Bering straits, or landed on these shores from some other parts of the earth. He got up a plan by which simultaneously on the earth's surface, for the earth is 25,000 miles in circumference, and revolves on its axis once in 24 hours; hence its rate of travel is over 1,000 milces an hour eastward on the equator. If the air did not rotate with it, the result would be a wind from the east at that rate, as our most destructive wind have not a velocity of more than 100 miles an hour, you can see what the result would be.

Coal Consuming Nations.

"What counties are the largest consumers of coal in their relative rank?"—Subscriber, Bryan, O.

According to the United States bureau of statistics, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland was until recently the largest coal-producing country in the world's reports, however, have always amounted to a considerable proportion of its production, and the amount consumed in the home industries has not been as great since 1893 as that in the United States. Since 1891 the United States has maintained an increasing lead in the amount of coal consumed, and its total consumption has, in the absence of either a large export or import, kept pace with its production. Its consumption increasing far more rapidly than that of the United Kingdom. Thus from 1883 to 1901 the consumption of coal in the United States increased from 182,900,000 gross tons to 255,-000,000—an increase of almost 150 per cent; while the increase in the United Kingdom during the same period was only from 134,-300,000 gross tons to 161,300,000 gross tons—an increase of only 89 per cent. The United Kingdom, however, maintains its second place as a coal-consuming country, and it seems probable that it will maintain this position for a long time. The third country in rank of the coal consuming countries is Germany, with a total consumption of 97,300,000 metric tons annually. The consumption of that country has increased very rapidly and has promoted the immense industrial expansion which has marked the last 25 years of German progress. The increase in consumption in Germany during the 18 years from 1882 to 1901 was from 48,000,000 to 97,-300,000tons—an increase of almost 100 per cent—while in France during the same period the increase has been only from 20,600,000 to 44,600,000 metric tons—or an increase of about 45 per cent.

The countries next in order in coal-consumption are Austria-Hungary, with 18,-100,000 metric tons in 1900, making a very rapid increase since 1883; Belgium, with 18,810,000, and Russia, with 19,827,600 in 1901. The growth of the consumption of coal in Belgium, like the growth of its production, has been considerably retarded, and during the 18 years under consideration the amount of coal consumed increased only from 14,400,000 to 18,810,000 tons, an increase of only 34 per cent. The increase in the output of Russian coal has been more remarkable, the consumption being over three times as great in 1901 as it was in 1883.

Other countries with a large consumption of coal are: Canada, with 8,180,000 tons, or almost three times the consumption of 1883; British India, with 5,718,000, or almost the consumption of 1890; Italy, with 4,813,000 tons; Spain, with 4,733,000 tons; Sweden, with 3,382,000 tons; and Japan, with 4,178,000 tons in 1900. The growth of the consumption of coal in Japan has been remarkably rapid, its consumption as late as 1898 amounting to 4,5551,000 tons, or more than three times the consumption of 1890, and more than seve ntimes the consumption in the early eighties.

J. L. Trowbridge.

"Please give a short biography of J. T. Trowbridge."—C. C. L., Richmond, Ind.

John Townsend Trowbridge was born at Ogden, N. Y., in 1827, and his education was largely obtained outside of schools. He lived on a farm until 17 years old, then taught school in Illinois and in Lockport, N. Y. He went to New York city in 1874 and began to write for the press. Later he removed to Boston, and has been since active as editor of and contributor to magazines and journals. He married Cornelia Warren, of Lowell, Mass., in 1860, and after her death Ada Newton, of Arlington, Mass., in 1873.

Coke.

"Please state if coke can be, or is made from anthracite coal."—T. F., Early, Iowa.

Anthracite coal is simply bituminous coal which has been subjected to great heat in the earth, by which its volatile constituents have been largely driven off, away back in geologic time. It is possible to drive off the remainder, but it is not commercially profitable.

Miscellaneous.

Subscriber, Iowa: We can find no record of any such event.

C. C. H., Nashua, Iowa: We have not seen any account printed.

C. A., Princeton, Mo.: The word simply adds s to form its plural.

I. M. B., New London, Wis: Very sorry to say we have not the data.

D. R. B., Wetona, Pa.: John Milton was the blind poet of Cromwell's time.

R. V. R., Silver City, Iowa: Try the experiment. That is the only way to find out.

E. H. M., Ledger, Pa.: Such things are worth just what any one is willing to pay for them.

N. R., State, Kan.: We must refer you to any life of Washington, or history of the United States.

E. V. H., South Bend, Ind.: There has never been a canal in America between the Pacific and Atlantic oceans.

N. T., Bainbridge, O.: Most certainly. The teacher is the best judge of that, and the board of education can compel obedience.

S. H. Hastings, Neb.: Address a letter of inquiry to "Superintendent Free Delivery Service, Postoffice Department, Washington, D. C."

F. A., Lima, O.: Please see Weekly Blade of Dec. 18, editorial article on 4th page, 2d column, headed "The Delaware Deadlock."

W. M. N., Elkmont, Ala.: Licenses to peddle goods are matters of state or municipal law, and no federal law gives any one exemption.

S. C. E., Evant, Tex.: Address a letter of inquiry to the "Commissioner of the General Land Office, Interior Department, Washington, D. C."

J. M., Powersville, Mo.: We do not know how that particular man pronounces his name, but we have never heard Monsagtus pronounced except in three syllables—Mon-ta-gu.

G. R., Unlontown, Pa.: You ask for the editor's opinion. This is a department for facts, not for opinions or speculations. Please read answer elsewhere in the Bureau, headed "Concerning Hell."

J. R., Rootville, Pa.: The prophecy in Ezekiel xxi, 27, was delivered only a few years before the first destruction of Jerusalem, and refers to that event, and hence has long since been fulfilled.

L. G., Lansing, N. C.: Get your bookseller to obtain from New York a list of industrial publications, which will probably include what you want. We are not allowed to give addresses in this column.

W. S. W., Washington, Iowa: It would require a chemical analysis of the water to determine what the yellow sediment in the water is. Probably it is the yellow residuum of iron, which is sparingly soluble in water.

L. E. C., Republic, O.: You ask to be told "something about the paper from which the Declaration of Independence was read." We do not understand what you want to know. Please be more explicit, and we will answer if we can.

W. B., Fruita, Colo.: Such things are worth just what one is willing to pay for it. We have no use for them at all. The probability is that yours is a fac-simile, and not an original. The edition of the New York Herald of April 15, 1865, with the account of Lincoln's assassination has been issued in fac-simile by millions as a patent medicine advertisement.

THE SWEARING HABIT.

Significant as it was timely and impressive was the recent protest of the Roman Catholics of Brooklyn against blasphemy. Twenty thousand members of the Holy Name society took part in the demonstration, one feature of which was mass meetings in the churches at which addresses were made by the vicar general of the Brooklyn diocese and other clergymen dwelling upon the evil of blasphemy and the need of a higher feeling of reverence for divine things. It is a deplorable fact that the silly and vicious practice of using profane language of the worst sort on any and all occasions seems to be on the increase among men of all ages and classes, and particularly among young boys. It is only necessary to listen for a few moments to the casual conversation of boys and young men who congregate on the street corners and other public places, to be aware of this. The practice is not only silly but vicious and degrading to the last degree, and parents, religious leaders and teachers, and all others who have oversight and guidance of the young cannot too strongly reprobate and discourage the habit. No man who would have the least respect of those whose respect is worth having will indulge in blasphemous language, no matter whether he has any religious scruples or not It is never the mark of a gentleman any way.—Leslie's Weekly.

A LILT.

Life is a riddle—
A wild game o'chance;
Tune up the fiddle,
An' join in the dance!

Bright eyes are winning,
With joy in each glance;
Life's just beginning—
Join in the dance!

—Atlanta Constitution.

Wrong Anyway.

"Young man," said the stern parent, "you have been making love to my daughter!"

"Yes, sir," admitted the trembling wretch, "but indeed I didn't mean it, sir. I——"

"Didn't mean it? Why, you scoundrel!"

"That is—er—that is, sir, I do mean it. I love her devotedly——"

"What! You presumptuous upstart, how dare you?"—Baltimore News.

How a Penny

May Cure a Sick Friend.

Simply write a postal card telling me who needs help. Tell me which book to send.

Spend but that penny to aid your sick friend, then I will do this:

I will mail him an order—good at any drug store—for six bottles Dr. Shoop's Restorative. He may take it a month at my risk. If it succeeds, the cost is $5.50. If it fails, I will pay the druggist myself.

That may seem too fair to be possible—but try me. I have furnished my treatment on just those terms in hundreds of thousands of difficult cases. My records show that 39 out of each 40 have paid, and paid gladly, because they got well.

I willingly pay for the rest.

The remedy that stands that test is a result of a lifetime's work. It is the only remedy yet made that strengthens the inside nerves. My way alone brings back the nerve power which operates the vital organs. There is no other way to make weak organs well.

You will know it when you read my book.

Simply state which book you want, and address Dr. Shoop, box 828, Racine, Wis.

Book No. 1 on Dyspepsia.
Book No. 2 on the Heart.
Book No. 3 on the Kidneys.
Book No. 4 for Women.
Book No. 5 for Men (sealed).
Book No. 6 on Rheumatism.

Mild cases, not chronic, are often cured by one or two bottles. At all druggists.

CHRISTMAS TREES.

How They Were Trimmed in Earlier Years—Other Decorations.

The daintily decorated, beautifully illuminated, fir trees, loaded with Christmas presents, came to us comparatively of late years from Germany With the forest-loving Germans the Christmas tree has flourished for centuries. says a writer in an English magazine. A rough fir tree used to be cut from the woods, placed in a pot or tub, decorated with wool to represent snow, and plenty of tiny reed tallow candles. On the top was placed an angel with outstretched wings, while at the foot of the tree was a rude representation of a stable with the Virgin Mary and St. Joseph watching over the Divine Child in the manger, while kings, the wise men of the East, shepherds, and others crowded round bringing their offerings of crowns, myrrh and sheep as tokens of glad rejoicing.

These figures differed greatly, sometimes they were merely ill-shaped dolls, in other instances beautiful statuettes, in metals and ivory or in wax, often richly clothed with silks and golden brocades, made up the show, the figures varying in size from an inch or two to perhaps a foot or more in height. On the branches of the tree presents for every member of the household and near friends were suspended, though often enough the naughty boy would find a fear inspiring birch or ugly scourge hanging to the tree with his name on it, and if the stinging twigs and leathern thongs hid goodies the hint that the birch and scourge held sweets as well as pains was no doubt efficacious in the turbulent youngster—for a time! As a rule the head of the household would point out to the younger children the mimic representations of the glorious Christmas eve and tell them in homely language the story of their faith. Then the whole family stood around singing carols before the treasures were distributed.

The representation of the first Christmas eve has been common in most countries, for it was deemed an impressive way of telling the wondrous story to children and the unlettered. In early days most churches got up representations of the creche, and in some monasteries and churches of southern France and Italy the custom is stil observed. Until quite recent years one of the side chapels of a famous church in Marseilles was given up during the Christmas fortnight to a representation of the creche; there were numerous figures in wax, most of them life-size, others no bigger than babies, with which latter a mild attempt to represent distance was made.

I have seen several creches used in private households, pretty paste-board stables, with gaily colored porcelain dolls, all lit up with night lights The best creche I ever met with, however, was at a monastery of the Annonciata at Mentone. There, in the crypt, a grotto was dug out of the living rock, and in this grotto the creche was arranged. The floor was covered over with moss to represent grass, with patches of sand and pebbles to represent the desert, small shrubs doing duty for forests. Near the foreground, to the right, was a stable, or rather penthouse, with Mary and Joseph looking over the cradle, while a guardian angel stood at the head of it, and drowsy cows and sheep were close at hand. Beside the cradle were shepherds, with their crooks and young lambs, also the wise men of the East in gorgeous robes, making their offerings on their knees. And then from every point of the compass came trooping adorers bringing their presents.

There were people of every country, every clime and every age. There were caravans of camels, humble parties on donkey pack, proud men and beautiful dames on horseback, and innumerable people on foot. The figures were almost six inches in height, the children and minor figures in proper proportions. But the grotesque crept in when the good monks were not content to collect peoples of the East and Arabs in flowing robes, but introduced figures in Roman, Grecian, medieval and modern costumes. The conventional Spaniard lostled the beau from Paris; John Bull, in beaver hat and top boots came side by side with the red Indian. A mailed Crusader ambled along quietly with a nineteenth-century dragoon. The judge in his ermine, the priest in his canonicals, were also there. Indeed, there was hardly a religious order unrepresented, though the Capucines (the monastery belonged to that order) were the most numerous. The crypt itself was in darkness, only the grotto was lit up by beautiful miniature hanging oil lamps of colored glass and silver placed above and round about the humble manger. This creche used to be visited by many hundreds of persons from the neighboring country.

BRILLIANTS.

A laugh is worth a hundred groans in any market.

—Charles Lamb.

Only those are crowned and sainted
Who with griefs have been acquainted.

—Longfellow.

Those love truth best who to themselves are true,
And what they dare to dream of dare to do.

—Lowell.

I follow, follow, sure to meet the sun,
And confident that what the future yields
Will be the right, unless myself be wrong.

—Longfellow.

Whatever men say in blindness,
And spite of the fancies of youth,
There's nothing so kingly as kindness
And nothing so royal as truth.

—Alice Cary.

Good-night; good-night! Ah, good the night
That laps thee in its silver light.
Good-night! No night is good for me
That does not hold a thought of thee—
Good-night!

Good-night! Be every night as sweet
As that which made our love complete;
Till that last night when death shall be
One brief "Good-night" for thee and me—
Good-night!

—S. Weir Mitchell.

IT IS BETTER.

Keep a smile on your lips; it is better
To joyfully, hopefully try
For the end you would gain than to fetter
Your life with a moan and a sigh.
There are clouds in the firmament ever
The beauty of heaven to mar,
Yet night so profound there is never
But somewhere is shining a star.

—Nixon Waterman.

Side-Tracked.

Epitaphs was the subject; the Riggs house, Washington, was the place, and Lafe Pence, former representative, was the speaker. He said:

"I remember one that adorned the cemetery at Leadville, in the palmy days of that great mining camp. It seems that in the course of a barrom brawl one Jim O'Brien, a well-known character, had his existence terminated prematurely. He was a good fellow and had not without friends. One of the dead man's associates, in deep grief over his demise, erected a wooden slab over his grave, on which he had written in large letters:

"'Jim O'Brien, departed for heaven at 9:30 a. m.'

"A local humorist happened along soon afterward and appended the following:

"'Heaven, 4:20 p. m.—O'Brien not yet arrived. Intense excitement. The worst is feared.'"—Buffalo Times.

Printed In Full.

Towns—Pighed had a signed article in the paper yesterday; it was printed just as he wrote it.

Brown—You don't say? I suppose he's tickled to death.

Towns—Not exactly. The article reads: "Dear Editor—John Bighed is one of the handsomest and most popular young men in uptown society. Please print this in your society column and oblige, yours truly, John Bighed."—Philadelphia Press.

Differently Put.

Wigwag—Are you interested in woman's rights, Miss Caustique?

Miss Caustique—No; woman's wrongs.—Philadelphia Record.

The Sunday School.

CONQUEST AND CHARACTER.

International Sunday School Lesson for December 28—Quarterly Review

For six months past the Sunday schools of the world have been studying Old Testament events and people; now we come to the end of this series of lessons, and with the New Year begin a course of study in the Book of Acts. The last Sunday school of the old year is given to a backward look at the lessons for the quarter just ending. Two of these Christmas and temperance lessons, being special and out of the regular order of study, may be omitted from the review. The other ten deal with the conquest of the promised land under Joshua and with certain notable characters during the time of the judges, who, for more than three hundred years prior to the choosing of a king, were the leaders and rulers in the life of the Jewish nation. While these events covered four hundred years in the history of an ancient nation, they show forth principles which apply to all time. Their teachings are as applicable, and as necessary, in this year 1902 as they were in the year 1200 B. C.

A Call to Courage.

Cowardice kills more men than consumption. The greatest ill of all time is simple lack of courage. The old Book, which is the best counsellor in the practical affair of life, abounds in exhortations to courage. As Joshua understood the responsibility of leading the children of Israel, after the death of Moses, Jehovah spoke to him in these words, which every man facing a hard task should hide in his heart: "Be strong and of good courage * * * * Only be strong and very courageous, to observe and do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee; turn not from it to the right hand or to the left that thou mayest have good success whithersoever thou goest * * * * Be strong and of good courage; be not affrighted, neither be thou dismayed; for Jehovah, thy God, is with thee whithersoever thou goest."

Every man who works for God, every man who serves his fellow man, must have the stout heart of a brave man in his breast. (Lesson I.)

A River to Cross.

Between the pilgrim Israelites and their inheritance flowed the Jordan; how could it be crossed? Well, God never sends anybody anywhere without also preparing the way. So the vast hosts of the chosen people were set in array, and with the priests bearing the ark of God leading off, they marched over Jordan dry shod, as in the time of their fathers they had crossed the Red Sea. God's prayer cannot be hindered, nor His promises thwarted in fulfillment, no matter how many miracles He must perform to bring them to pass. There is always a way made for the man on a divine mission. It is the messenger's part to go forward; it is God's part to remove the obstacles that seem insuperable. Obstructing Jordans roll before every man at crises in his life; but there is always a way over or through them. Sometimes we must ferry ourselves across, or swim across; if we can do so we need not expect the Lord to divide the waters for us. (Lesson II.)

One Way of Conquering.

God gives us fists and faith; sometimes we are to win our battles by force and faith, and sometmes by faith alone. When they entered upon the conquest of the Promised Land, the Hebrew warriors found plenty of work for their swords. Indeed, we shudder at the bloody record. But that they might know that their victories come only by the favor of God, the first great conquest on the newly-possessed soil was accomplished without the clashing of a single sword or the bending of a single bow. For six days the army marched around Jericho once each day, the seven priests blowing their rams' horns as they marched. On the seventh day, seven circuits were made, and then the people were commanded to give the shout of victory, before a stone had fallen. That was a test of faith! But at the loud shout the walls fell flat about the dear-souled inhabitants. "By faith the walls of Jericho fell down," and by faith the greatest battles of the world are won, in history and in the human heart. There are no Jerichos that can stand before faith (Lesson III).

An Old Hero's Plucky Request.

Do you remember Caleb, one of the two brave spies of the twelve that Moses sent out? And do you recall how it almost broke his heart when the people proved craven-spirited and listened to cowardly counsel. He was a young man then, and only he and his comrade Joshua, of the men of that day lived to enter the Land of Promise. Now, at 85 years of age, we find the old soldier asking a boon for himself. Is it a pension he wants, or a place of ease, or a post of honor? Not much. He asks only a chance to go and clean out the hill country, where the giants lived—the place and people who had terrified Israel 45 years before! For a reward, he sought a hard task. That was the hero heart for you; that was a man among men, one of God's immortal heroes. Still the lesson runs, "Quit you like men, be strong." The person who says the Bible is for women and children and weaklings doesn't know much about the Book. (Lesson IV).

Cities of Refuge.

The Old Testament law is today praised by jurists as the foundation of modern law. It was right, and, in points, seemingly very harsh, but it was just, and admirably served the public welfare. The establishment of six cities of refuge, at accessible points throughout the kingdom, where a man who had caused the death of another could flee from the avenger, was a wise provision for the protection of the innocent and for the stability of society. If a man was guilty of deliberate murder, the cities of refuge could not save him, though they did insure a fair trial. If one had been only careless, he had to pay for his carelessness by being obliged to live in the city of refuge until the death of the high priest. In either case, feuding was avoided and the sanctity of human life observed. Lesson V.)

The Great Choice.

There is never a day without its decision. Life is one long succession of choices. And always these choices are some form of the alternatives which Joshua set before the Israelites in his farewell address—on the one hand God, on the other hand human desire. We could give reasons from history, as he did, why it is wisest and safest and pleasantest to choose Jehovah. Notwithstanding this, in spite of reason and experience, men, on as the Jews did, choosing the way of selfishness and smallness and materialism. But that way lies sorrow and disaster. In the choice of God, we find all lesser blessings. "Choose you this day whom ye will serve." (Lesson VI.)

The Might of a Man.

Making resolutions is the easiest thing in the world; but working out resolutions into deeds and character is one of the hardest. So, although the Israelites enthusiastically voted "aye" to Joshua's proposition that they serve Jehovah, after his death they soon degenerated into the ways of their heathen neighbors. This was one consequence of their failure to rid Palestine completely of their enemies, as they had been commanded. This period of between three and four hundred years is known as the time of the judges because, in different sections of the land and at various times, men and women arose by sheer force of personality and at the word of Jehovah, to deliver the people from their oppressions. The judges stand for the power of the individual to be the savior of the many; men go astray in masses and are won back by one man or woman. (Lesson VII.)

The Immortal Three Hundred.

It was during this epoch in Israel's history that Gideon and his three hundred won their great victory over the Midianites. They represent the qualified and the chosen; the superiority of quality over quantity is emphasized, plus Gideon and God, were superior to the one hundred and thirty-two thousand of the Midianite host; or fore the unworthy had Midianite host. There are just as great tasks as confronted Gideon awaiting today for the man who believes God wholly and will attempt big duties for Him. Fitness and faith can do anything. (Lesson IX.)

Woman's Love for Women.

The brightest page in this period of the life of the chosen people bears a single little story of Ruth. The fortune and life of a single family, with their sorrows, losses, loves and good fortune, occupy the entire book of Ruth. Ruth's loving appeal to her mother-in-law, Naomi, that they might not be separated is one of literature's most beautiful classics. Love's power and love's triumph, under the tender providence of God, are illustrated in this record of the life of the ancestress of King David and of his greater Descendant. (Lesson X.)

The Boy in the Temple.

The last of the judges and the priest and prophet who would give Israel a hearing is introduced to us as a child in the temple. The incident naturally links him in most minds with that other boy who is first reveal

TOLEDO BLADE.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25, 1902.

Largest and Best Weekly Published and Largest Circulation.

TOLEDO BLADE CO.....Publishers
ROBINSON LOCKE.... ....Editor

THE BLADE is a weekly newspaper for intelligent American citizens. It aims to cover, each week, all news topics of real interest to all wide-awake and thinking men. Its editorial page is the strongest and most thoughtful of any in the United States. Its special departments are carefully edited, and the whole paper is intended for the homes of the free American people.

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MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL THE GREAT BLADE FAMILY!

The editor sends his most cordial greetings to every reader of the Weekly Blade, and wishes each and all a Merry Christmas.

And, in a most special manner, does he send greeting to all the young people—to the boys and girls who read The Blade, and who find instruction, amusement and profit thereby.

The Blade is doing all that lies in its power for the advancement of humanity, and for the uplifting of the race to higher paths of living and thinking. It strives to be the earnest friend and helpful counselor to its patrons of both sexes and of every age. But the editor recognizes that the hope of the nation lies in the younger generation, in the boys and girls of today, who will be the men and women of the next generation, and in whose hands will be the destinies of the Great Republic, and the welfare of her then one hundred millions of people.

Christmas commemorates the birth of Jesus, whose work on earth was to do good to all men, to set their feet in the paths of right living and doing, and whose highest precept is that each of us shall deem all men his brethren. All over the Christian world today there are rejoicings and merry-makings over the birthday of the Redeemer. Let us all rejoice, but not forget out of our abundance to bring help to the needy, comfort to the afflicted, and to do all that in us lies to make the day a most joyous one.

COLLECTING BAD DEBTS.

The method employed by European nations of collecting debts due their subjects by other governments, is a comparatively new one. It is a method that is to be deprecated, and should not be allowed recognition as an established principle of international law.

The sound business principle is, to let business men take their own risks in foreign lands. A government can, and does, by peaceful means, compel the payment of debts within its own boundaries, where the dispute is between its own citizens or subjects; but when one of the parties is in another country, beyond its own jurisdiction, the effort to secure settlement should be through peaceful channels, and not through a display of force or through actual war.

In the case of Venezuela, nobody cares particularly what may happen to Castro, but this is not a case in which Castro is the principal. The nation itself is the principal, and Castro happens to be, for the time, the head of the state. Some of the debts involved were contracted before his accession to power, and some under his administration; but were Castro overthrown and a new president elected, they would still be valid against Venezuela.

The manner in which the Germans and the English have conducted their campaign so far seems to be a deliberate intent to drive the Venezuelans into a general war. The outcome of this may very easily be an overthrow of the Castro government and the proffer of territorial cession as satisfaction for the debts and personal damages which are the cause of the demonstration. And in that case the United States would be drawn into the controversy. Either that, or—good-by to the Monroe Doctrine.

So far, the only application of the new principle of the collection of such debts by force has been with American republics. It may be that there is an intention of forcing upon the United States either a total abandonment of the Monroe Doctrine, or a modification which shall make us responsible for the good conduct of the little independent countries to the south of us. The situation is not a pleasing one, and the American people will watch developments carefully.

MARKING PRISONERS' GRAVES

Senator Foraker's bill providing that the United States government shall mark the graves of Confederate soldiers who died in northern prisons, will probably pass. Senator Burrows' remark seems to express the views of the majority of the senate: "I think it but a decent thing for a nation to mark the graves of those who were so unfortunate as to be taken prisoners of war and to die in the prisons of that nation and be buried by its army."

President McKinley once proposed that the nation should care for the graves of all the dead of the civil war gathered in military cemeteries, whether of Union or Confederate soldiers. Public opinion in the south, while appreciating to the full his kindly meaning, was averse to this, holding it the sacred duty of the south to care for its own graves. The Foraker bill, however, is not open to this objection. The graves which it proposes to mark are in northern states, where they lie nameless; and unless soon marked, their very existence will soon be forgotten. The bill is a proper one, and should become a law.

Of course, Mr. Cannon is easily the most popular man in the present congress with his colleagues. Mr. Cannon is to be speaker of the next congress and will name the committees. Enough said.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT SHOULD NOT ACCEPT

On Friday last President Roosevelt made an official proposition to England, Germany and Italy that they submit their claims against Venezuela to The Hague arbitration court. The pertinency of the suggestion is not open to negative argument. That tribunal was created for international disputes, of this kind and the powers should have acceded thereto without hesitation.

But instead of doing so they submitted to the United States government a counter proposition that President Roosevelt himself shall act as arbitrator. The proposition is a clever one, for it involves a virtual guarantee of the payment of the claims against Venezuela by this government, if the award of the President should be against that Republic. And this would set a precedent for the future that might prove annoying to the United States. It would make this country the indorser of the promises to pay of every one of the little Spanish-American republics, which might happen to owe money to the subjects of any European power.

There is no reason that we can see for the assumption that Venezuela will not pay any claim which The Hague court might decide to be due from her. It might be difficult for her to arrange for the cash, but her national honor would be involved; and it must not be forgotten that Venezuela is recognized as a sovereign power by Germany, England and Italy. In fact, they are today holding her responsible for debts created by virture of that sovereignty. Hence they should treat her as worthy of confidence in the settlement of claims which she, as a sovereign state, is willing to submit to impartial arbitration.

It is not too much to say that European nations desire to force upon the United States the responsibility for the financial lapses of the minor American states. The Monroe Doctrine estops them from grabbing territory in satisfaction of such claims; we are responsible for the Monroe Doctrine; therefore we should underwrite the debts which the nations we protect may contract abroad. But this is a matter in which the United States is not to be coerced. Once let us yield by guaranteeing Venezuela's debts, and we will find the debtors of all the other Spanish-American republics clamoring for the same thing. If President Roosevelt accepts the position of arbitrator, and should decide against Venezuela, he would be morally bound to see that his decision was carried out by the payment of the claims.

On Saturday representatives of a New York bank offered to act as a clearing-house for the settlement of Venezuela's debts. The plan is to have that country issue bonds for the amount, which bonds they would market, but would not guarantee. The bonds will be made satisfactory, and the bank will arrange for the collection in Venezuela and the payment of the awards. It is probable the plan contemplates the selection of a "receiver" at each Venezuelan port, the proceeds to be set aside for the payment of the bonds. Such a plan is far preferable to any that would involve the assumption by the United States government of Venezuela's financial obligations.

PAY TEACHERS MORE MONEY

There is a school teacher famine in this great commonwealth of Ohio.

Down in Scioto county some of the country schools have been closed simply because teachers cannot be secured. The doors of the school houses are locked and the children are "running wild" or are traveling several miles to districts fortunate enough to have teachers. In other sections of Ohio the same difficulty is being experienced, except, perhaps, in no other community has it been found necessary to close the schools.

State School Commissioner Bonebrake in commenting on this lack of teachers, says:

There is the same trouble in other states, and it all comes from the miserable wages paid to these who train the youth of the land. Men who hold life certificates are leaving the profession for the reason that living salaries are not paid. They can do far better in other lines of work.

The trouble is all in the rural districts. The farmer does not want to pay high taxes for the support of the schools, and men are elected to keep down the levy for school purposes. In many districts in Ohio, the teacher does not receive as much as he could earn by common labor. These conditions will go from bad to worse unless the boards take the matter in hand and levy more taxes.

Men and women do not spend their days in the vexatious work of teaching school merely for the love of it. Few begin the work expecting to follow it year after year. There is not enough money in it. The salaries paid are usually so small as to come under the head of wages. As Mr. Bonebrake says, common labor is paid as much as are the teachers in our country schools, and the same is true of many of the city schools.

In many of the rural counties in Ohio teachers are employed at from $1.25 to $1.75 a day. The teacher who receives $10 a week is considered fortunate. Of course he must board himself, and the term, as a rule, does not exceed six months, and yet these teachers are entrusted with the educational training of the children when these children are in their most plastic years.

The country school is one of the great institutions of the country. A great per cent of the population drinks knowledge from no other fountain. But the wages now paid the teachers of these country schools are no greater than were paid when the middle-aged men of today were pupils in these schools. Those who provide for the maintenance of these schools are not keeping step with the progress of the times.

The country school teacher should be paid more money. Ohio is wealthy enough not to be niggardly in providing for the proper education of its youth. The same may be said of the schools in many of our cities. Especially should not the teachers in lower grades be starved at the expense of teachers in higher grades. The state should have efficient schools and if more money is necessary to make them efficient then put up the money.

The St. Paul railway is starting out to "get even" with James J. Hill. The directors recently authorized the issue of $25,000,000 of new stock, and now Mr. Hill is informed that he must make liberal traffic arrangements with the St. Paul, or have a new Pacific road built outright on the northwestern route. It is the same plan the St. Paul people used effectively to secure a southwestern connection over the Union Pacific.

The California fruit growers demand Chinese labor. Is this the thin end of the wedge?

AMERICA'S OPPORTUNITY.

The eleven Latin republics of South America have an aggregate population of forty millions of people. The vast majority of these are in a fairly advanced stage of civilization. Their habitat extends from the southern limits of the south temperate zone through the equatorial belt to and including the Isthmus of Panama. Their wants and aspirations, their productions and productive capacity are common to men inhabiting these various gradations of territory. The natural resources of the continent are unexcelled by those of any other area of equal extent on the face of the globe. Their variety is not surpassed on any other continent. Their undeveloped state is due, in a large measure, to the commercially unenterprising character of the population and to the fact that the continent, under the protection of the Monroe Doctrine, has not been subject to partition or exploitation by any of the land-grabbing powers of the old world. South America seems to have been held in reserve as the coming field of the world's commercial activities.

England and Germany have, so far, been the most successful of the great nations in building up a South American trade. The necessity of foreign markets for their manufactured products has forced their merchants to establish agencies in every capital on the continent. As a consequence, those countries have vastly outstripped the United States in trade with the republics of South America. It has only been in recent years that our government and our large importers have awakened to a realization of the necessity of cultivating more intimate trade relations with the Latin republics.

Our opportunity seems now to have arrived. The events of the past week have done more to advance the commercial interests of the United States in South America than all the data and reports that could be compiled by our Bureau of South American republics in a hundred years. The bombardment of Puerto Cabello and the sinking of the Venezuelan navy will quiet countless shuttles and silence the looms in the largest cotton factories of Great Britain. These acts of open warfare have resulted in a boycott in Venezuela and her sympathizing sister-republics of the continent against German and British traders and commercial agencies. The United States government, whose efforts to cultivate reciprocal trade relations with the governments of South America have been received with little enthusiasm in the past, has just now leaped into sudden favor. Mobs have torn down signs of popular houses designed to draw German and English patronage and have substituted those calculated to arouse native interest and enthusiasm for the great North American republic.

Rightly or wrongly the people of every South American country feel outraged by the action of the British and German governments toward Venezuela. Colombia has tendered the services of her army and navy to help repress the European invaders. Others of the Latin republics are on the point of taking similar action. The boycott of German and English goods is actually spreading to other countries of South America than Venezuela, and herein lies an opportunity for the United States, most unexpected and unforeseen. Closer reciprocal trade relations between the United States and the Latin republics are naturally suggested by the present crisis. The government at Washington is doubtless ready to take advantage of the opportunity presented. With one fell blow Great Britain and Germany have cut off their trade with a population as great as that of England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

Their contribution to the solidarity of the Latin American republics will be acknowledged by future historians. In fact, it is wholly within the range of probability that the attack upon Venezuela will arouse the people of the South American continent to a sense of the importance of a federal union with the now separate and independent states the component parts of one great republic. The present attitude of European nations, their anxiety to get a foothold in the southern portion of the western hemisphere, together with their jealousy of this country, even now suggest the close approach of the day when the United States of South America, clasping hands with the United States of North America, at the Isthmus of Darien, will share the guardianship of a new gateway between the oceans and help dominate the finance and trade of the world.

THE STATEHOOD BILL.

The statehood bill reported by the majority of the Senate committee on territories should be passed. It unites the Indian Territory and Oklahoma, and admits them as the state of Oklahoma. The two have a population of about a million, and they possess the natural resources which render it certain that the new state will continue to grow. The people in the Indian Territory want separate statehood, but if one will look at their respective boundaries on a map, he will see why geographic considerations should prevail and the two be united in one commonwealth.

The majority report recommends that New Mexico and Arizona shall remain territories a little longer. There are several good reasons for this. Three-fourths of the 200,000 people of New Mexico are "greasers," or descendants of Mexicans and Indians. They speak only Spanish, and are unfitted to have the destinies of a state intrusted to their hands. There is a large element of the same sort in Arizona also, and the greater portion of the area of both is arid plateaus, incapable of agriculture, and hence unfitted to support an intelligent farming population. We have had one experience of a "sage-brush state"—Nevada—and we should not add two more. In fact, when the time for admission comes, the two should be united under the name Arizona; for New Mexico should not be perpetuated as a state name.

The anger of the good people of Puerto Cabello, Venezuela, is deadly against the English sailors. Not because the Charybdis knocked the custom-house down, oh, no! But because the aforesaid sailors stole twenty fighting cocks, which the townsmen depended upon for their Christmas amusement.

Corea is like Venezuela. She is provokingly slow in paying that million and a half she owes the American builders of her electric railway. Will Uncle Sam try a "pacific blockade?"

AN ELASTIC CURRENCY.

A substitute for the national bank currency bill presented at the last session of Congress has been introduced in the House. The new bill provides that national banks may take out for issue national bank currency equal in amount to one-fourth their paid-up, unimpaired capital, without depositing government bonds as security. A security of bonds or gold, of 5 per cent. of the currency taken out for issue, is all that is required. This extra volume of currency is to be retired, of course, as soon as the need for it has passed.

The defect of our financial system has always been a lack of elasticity. The volume of the currency, under existing laws, is practically a fixed quantity. It is naturally only as great as is needed by the average volume of business of the country. When the crops are to be moved, or money is being collected by the banks to meet the semi-annual payments of dividends and interest, or there is a greater volume of loans than usual demanded by business activities, the total amount of currency is too small. It is this condition which the bill in question is intended to remedy.

It is altogether probable that, after the restoration of gold payments in 1878, Congress would have proceeded in a business-like way to so amend the banking laws as to provide a proper degree of elasticity, had it not been for the greenback craze. During the civil war, and after, the country had a depreciated paper currency. Sound business principles demanded that gold and paper should pass of equal value, as they do now, and this can only be done when the paper is redeemed in gold on demand. The only way to bring them to the same level was to retire enough of the paper money to bring its volume to a point at which gold redemption could be established. With that popular ignorance of the basic principles of finance which has been so curious a fact in our history, a great party arose which demanded more paper money instead of less. Hardly was this fad defeated at the polls, than the free silver craze set in, and it was not until Bryan's second defeat in 1900 that this received its quietus.

The time is now propitious for this much-needed and long-delayed piece of legislation, and it is to be hoped that the present session of Congress will not end without its accomplishment. We need a more elastic currency. But it must be carefully kept in mind that elasticity means not only the ability to expand, but also the power of contracting to its former volume. There must be provision for an increase in currency under extraordinary demands, and equal provision for the retirement of the increase when the exigency passes. Otherwise we should have inflation, with its train of evils, including the drift of gold abroad. For, if the currency of one country becomes at any time greater in volume than the needs of business require, the idle surplus will seek employment in other countries and as gold is the only international money, the gold will go out and the paper remain.

CORPORATION TAXATION.

The new tax measures enacted into law by the Ohio General Assembly last winter are proving eminently satisfactory. The quasi-public corporations of the state are not only paying taxes upon their tangible property in each city or county of the state at the local rate, but they are paying 1 per cent of their gross earnings to the state in addition. This tax has not proved a burden, while it is aiding materially in lightening the taxes on real estate, which has hitherto borne the heavier part. The new legislation, the Cole and the Willis laws, have equalized taxation materially.

The report of the state auditor shows that those quasi-public corporations of Ohio have paid into the state treasury the sums given in the table below during the past fiscal year, under the Cole law. This act increased the tax on their gross earnings from one-half per cent, as it formerly stood, to 1 per cent.

Electric light	$ 24,910.26
Artificial gas	55,751.65
Natural gas	48,678.59
Waterworks	5,412.98
Sleeping car	4,920.00
Pipe line	61,442.79
Messenger and signal	2,169.97
Express	12,339.65
Street railways	185,545.01
Railroads	1,010,885.80
Freight line	6,361.10
Telephone	40,384.58
Telegraph	3,295.54
Grand total	$1,432,097.92

As a result, the state treasury now contains over $3,423,000. At this rate, the next General Assembly can again make a great reduction in the state tax rate, if not abolish all of it except enough to bring into the treasury the interest on the irreducible state debt.

THE NORTH RIVER TUNNEL.

After months of needless delay, the New York board of aldermen has finally granted a franchise to the Pennsylvania railway company, authorizing the latter to construct a tunnel under the city and under the North and East rivers. The wrangle over the franchise among the aldermen was simply a case of peanut politics. Some of these gentlemen desired to have the franchise stipulate for an eight-hour day, and the payment of "the prevailing rate of wages." This opposition defeated the ordinance when it came up first.

Mayor Low then sent to the board a very strong message, in which he set forth the enormous advantages to the business and the people of the metropolis from this gigantic scheme when completed. He reminded them that the city had never before had an opportunity to receive payment for a franchise, and with the power to readjust the rate of payment at regular intervals in the future. He reminded them that the cost will be $50,000,000, and that the company would not spend a cent of that vast sum if they, the aldermen, insisted on these conditions, which were trivial when compared with the benefits that will accrue to the city from the work itself. The board finally yielded, and has now passed the franchise ordinance.

This will be the greatest work of the kind ever undertaken. Beginning on the Jersey City side, a huge steel tubular tunnel will be laid under the North river to New York city. This immense tube of steel will be below the bottom of the river, but supported by heavy masonry piers going down to bed-rock far below. Reaching Manhattan island, the railway tracks will cross it from west to east, with a huge central station by which the surface will be reached. Another similar tunnel will pass under the East river to Brooklyn, where the road will connect with the surface railway lines. It will solve the problem of New York city freight and passenger traffic with the west, without ferrying trains across the North river

COMMENT OF THE WEEK.

To the Hague Court.

To the Hague with it—that is the place to settle the Venezuela imbroglio in all its phases. The permanent court of international arbitration was organized for the adjustment of just such dispute, and it cannot be doubted that the great tribunal would make awards that would satisfy the demands of al lthe claimants. Arbitration in any proper form will be satisfactory to the United States government, and especially so through the medium of The Hague court. If the allied powers are wise they will promptly assent to this proposition.

In this proposition, Germany is the host to reckon with, and her position is apparently not wholly reassuring. She is willing to "entertain" the idea of arbitration, but before committing herself she desires to know a number of important things. Who will guarantee the payment by Venezuela of the debts alleged to be due? Where will she obtain the money and how? Will the United States consent to act as her bondsman and guarantor?

It is safe to say that the United States will not guarantee any Venezuelan loan. Our government cannot afford to establish so dangerous a precedent. Venezuela, as has been suggested, may ask the United States to appoint a "receiver" and collect her customs at one or two ports, the proceeds to be set aside for the satisfaction of the European claims, and possibly there is no serious objection to the acceptance by our government of this function, provided that the allies and the bystanders realize clearly that this modus operandi involves no change of policy on the part of the United States as regards Central and South American sovereignty.

There is no reason for supposing that Venezuela will deliberately repudiate obligations imposed on her by an impartial tribunal—say, the international court of arbitration. At any rate, she is a sovereign power and must be treated as such. Germany doubtless feels that the shelter afforded by Monroeism places her at a disadvantage, but that is a factor in the situation that cannot now be argued or protested away. War would be useless and worse. There is less humiliation, and more chance of pecuniary profit, in arbitration, even minus guaranty, than in persistence in the mailed-fist course. The allies had better agree with their adversary quick.

Our November Exports.

November export trade failed to justify earlier optimistic predictions, and the showing, when compared with the same month of recently preceding years, is poor, beyond any doubt. The total exports $125,043,181, were 13 per cent smaller than those of October, 8 per cent less than in November one or two years ago, 4 per cent less than in November, 1898, and only 1 per cent larger than in November, 1899. No one class of exports was responsible for the decrease, breadstuffs, cattle, provisions, cotton, mineral oils and miscellaneous exports all contributing more or less to the decline. In fact, the exports of these products in November were smaller, not only than those of October, but also less than in any preceding November for three years past, with the exception of cotton, the shipments of which were larger than in November, 1899. As for the eleven months, the exports this year of breadstuffs and cattle are the poorest for six years past, the provisions shipments the poorest for five years, and cotton and petroleum the poorest for three years, with that the result that the grand total of exports for the elapsed portion of the calendar year aggregate only $1,212,532,093, a decrease of 8.7 per cent from last year and of 8.8 per cent from 1900. Compared with 1899 and the year back of that, however, gains are shown, the increase over three years ago being 5 per cent.

The Decline in Corn.

The sharp decline in corn last week would have come sooner but for the continued manipulation of the speculators. They thought that corn of the contract grade could not be delivered in December, and persistently held up quotations until the enforced buying exhausted their resources. A little more cold and clearing weather, which will enable the farmers to haul and ship their grain, will greatly increase the receipts. The demands of the livestock feeders are large, but the great fall in the price of beef cattle will put a stop to a further extension of that industry. Hogs and provisions are also declining. Europe will not buy high-priced corn, but its use there may be greatly extended at reasonable quotations—such quotations as are justified by so large a crop as the one grown this year. Cheaper corn has already given cheaper beef, provisions and lard, although the retailers are slow to make concessions. Still they must recognize the situation in time, and there will be less reason to complain of the great cost of living.

A New Department.

The house committee on interstate commerce reported favorably the bill providing for a department of commerce. A number of existing bureaus, such as those of labor, census and treasury department statistics are grouped under the new department, in addition to the three new and important departments of insurance, manufactures and corporations. If the bill becomes a law, it is an open secret that Secretary Cortelyou wil be the first appointee at its head; and no better man can be found for the place.

Philippine Legislation.

Philippine legislation had its turn in congress last week. The house passed without division, a bill reported from the ways and means committee providing for the admission of merchandise from the islands at 25 per cent of the existing rates of duty, and for the entry into the Philippines of merchandise from the United States at the same rate. It was explained by the chairman of the committee that the duty was demanded by revenue considerations. There was no captious opposition to the bill in the house, though the leader of the minority insisted, in a general way, that the islands should enjoy free trade with the United States. The senate committee having charge of the affairs of the islands agreed upon a bill for the establishment of a currency system in the Philippines. This bill makes the gold peso of 12 9-10 grains the unit of value, and provides that the gold coins of the United States shall be legal tender for all debts.

Lake Commerce Profits.

Lake transportation is showing remarkably small profits as vesselmen close their books. The season started out with promises of a movement of iron ore far past all previous records. This promise was fulfilled. On the other hand, the outlook for a big traffic in coal came to naught on account of the coal miners' strike. That traffic, which for many years has kept a large fleet in service, dropped to insignificant figures. Grain was disappointing throughout the season. Compared with previous years, more wheat was shipped by lake than usual, but the corn shipments were only half the average for the last five years. The most remarkable feature of the season was the marked advance in the strength of labor unions in lake commerce and the increase of wages.

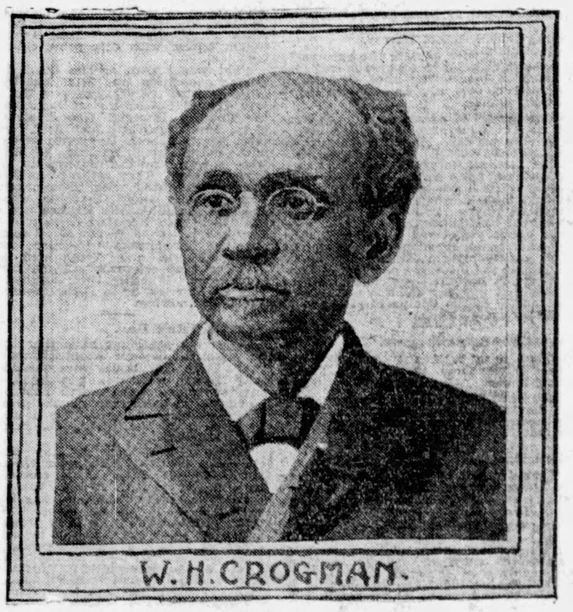
THE CHRISTMAS TREE.

I don't believe it's Santa Claus;
I'm sure that's Uncle Tom,
Although his beard is not so white—
Where did he get it from?

His smile is just like Uncle's, too;
His eyes as kind and bright—
I'm not quite sure, but if he spoke,
I'd know his voice all right.

Susan believes it's Santa Claus;
But she's a little tot;
And she is trembling—oh, the goose!
Is it Uncle Tom, or not?

EFFECT OF EDUCATION UPON THE NEGRO RACE



The "negro question" is a burning one among our friends of the south, and the unfortunate thing about this is that the whites of that section avoid with repugnance the only possible solution of it. That solution is simply the education and advancement of the colored race. To this they object, either passively or actively. The bugbear in the south is the question of "social equality." That the white race looks with disfavor, not to say prejudice, on the races whose skins are black, red, brown or yellow, is to repeat a truth so well known as to be a platitude. We of Aryan descent look with ill-concealed scorn upon the swarthy races. The aversion to the negro in the south is no more marked than that for the Indian in the western country, nor for the Chinaman on the Pacific slope, nor for the brown Kanaka in Hawaii, and the "little brown man" in the Philippines. There is a racial antipathy, and it includes far more than a mere difference in the color of the skin.

Among the whites of the south this antipathy is deepened by historic events. The negroes are, by an enormous majority, either persons who were born in slavery or the descendants of slaves. The attitude of a master to his slaves was that of an owner to his horses, or his cattle, or his dogs. He might have a sincere friendship for an individual, but he never forgot the gulf, deep as Tartarus, between himself and his chattel. The negro slave was an animal which could talk, that was all. And now the view seems almost universal in the old-time slave states that to educate or elevate the negro involves eventually his recognition socially.

The most recent instance of this is the outburst of southern prejudice when it was announced in the daily press that President Roosevelt had entertained Booker T. Washington at lunch at the white house. Innumerable diatribes were leveled at this alleged event. It was assumed that Mr. Roosevelt had taken Mr. Washington into the private dining room of the executive mansion, seated him at table with his wife and children, and had treated him as a "social equal." People of the north, especially in localities where negroes are few, can hardly realize the sincere horror and loathing with which such statements were received in the south. It may be of interest just here to tell exactly what occurred.

President Roosevelt, with a proper and praiseworthy desire to learn all he could of conditions actually existing, sent a message to Mr. Washington, at Tuskegee, Ala., requesting him to come to Washington for that purpose. Mr. Washington went, of course. He was taken into the executive offices, where he found the President, busily occupied with official business. The talk lasted several hours. In its midst a lunch was brought Mr. Roosevelt, of which he invited his visitor to partake. The occurrence may be viewed as exactly parallel to the course of a man of affairs who invites a business caller to lunch with him, that they may talk while eating. No other member of the President's family was present. These are the cold, hard facts in the case.

It may be said right here that the educated, self-respecting man, whether his skin be black, white, red, brown or yellow, has no desire to encounter a social situation where he is not welcomed for what he is. The "social equality" bugbear is the outcome of prejudice and race aversion. The ignorant and degraded, no matter what their race, are a menace and an injury to the body politic. Their education and enlightenment are demanded by the public welfare and the perpetuity of free government. No republic can exist part serf and part ruler any more than this nation could exist "part slave and part free," to use Abraham Lincoln's famous dictum.

The purpose of this article is to call attention to the latent possibilities of the negro race, as shown in the life of one of its representatives, whose portrait is given above—Prof. W. H. Crogman, A. M., who occupies the chair of Greek and Latin in Clark university, Atlanta, Ga. He is not so well known to the American public as is Booker T. Washington, Paul Dunbar and others. His career of success in the face of great difficulties might well have discouraged a man of white skin.

Prof. Crogman was born in St. Martin's, a little West Indian island belonging to Holland and France, on May 5, 1841. He was simply an ignorant negro boy, such as may be found by thousands in the south, when, in his fourteenth year, he went as a common sailor on an American vessel of which B. L. Boomer, of Massachusetts, was mate. The latter took an interest in the hard-working, obedient lad, and for eleven years he followed the sea under the Boomer family, two of whose members were sea captains. In 1866, at Mr. Boomer's suggestion, Crogman, then aged 25, began to save money in order to obtain an education. Two years later he entered Pierce Academy, Middleboro, Massachusetts, where he remained two years, taking an elementary English course with French and bookkeeping.

Completing this course in 1870, Mr. Crogman went South, to devote his life to the education and elevation of his race. He spent three years at Claflin University, Orangeburg, S. C. Being impressed with the value of a classical education, he went to Atlanta University in 1873. In three years he completed a full four years' course in Greek and Latin, and was immediately called to the faculty of Clark-University, where he has since remained. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and has been thrice a lay delegate to its general conference.

From a volume of his essays and addresses, entitled "Talks for the Times," two or three extracts are given, to show him as the thinker and philosopher. In 1896, in Atlanta, he delivered a memorial address on Rev. Atticus G. Haygood (white), the beloved and revered bishop of the Methodist Episcopal church South. It would be hard to find a more discriminating tribute than is embodied in the following extract from Prof. Crogman's effort:

"He (Bishop Haygood) was a man who realized very fully the force and value of units. Consequently, while others, like Olympian Jove, wrapped in cloud, unapproached and unapproachable, were complacently stroking their beards and endeavoring to devise plans and methods for the solution in a lump, as it were, of great social and moral problems, and were as often arriving at conclusions at once monstrous and absurd—he, like the Man of Galilee, was abroad in the land, studying the needs of the people and striving to reach and influence individual lives."

From a baccalaureate address delivered at Clark University, entitled Life's Deeper Meanings, the following extract shows Prof. Crogman's deep and optimistic philosophy:

"I am still inclined to range myself on the side of those who believe that life is a blessing, that it is beneficent in design, that it is governed by laws, as unchangeable as those that govern the planets, and that by a close and diligent study into its deeper and hidden meanings we may not only live it successfully, but even rise superior to many of those things which are commonly called its ills and annoyances and disappointments. In truth, many of the so-called worries and vexations of life are but the legitimate offspring of our short-sightedness, or neglect, or ignorance or indifference or recklessness."

Speaking in Henry Ward Beecher's old church in Brooklyn, by invitation, his theme was The Negro's Needs. In a thoughtful discussion of the race problem he said:

"There are very few white people in this country who are capable of passing fair judgment upon us as a race; for the large majority of them do not associate with us. The Jews have no extensive communication with the Samaritans. Now, it is a law in optics that the size of the visual angle varies with the distance; an object looks smaller the farther we recede from it. On this principle it is easy to account for the strange and absurd opinions many of our white friends entertain concerning us. They stand off at so magnificent a distance from the negro that they either lose sight of him altogether, or what they do see of him seems insignificant and contemptible."

Space will not allow of further quotation from a book which abounds in food for thought. The lesson is that what the negro needs is opportunity: that education and culture will do for him what it has done for the white race—although the slaves, brought here from Africa, started in this land with a thousand years of culture and enlightenment to the advantage of the white man.

S. S. KNABENSHUE.

Current Events.

Taxation of $15,000,000 church property not used for places of worship planned by Cook county assessors, following state supreme court decision in Joliet case; parish residences, halls, and stores will be included.

Gov.-Elect Mickey of Nebraska, a Methodist, refuses to attend his own inaugural ball; friends declare he never will wear dress suit.

Fulton, Mich., citizens headed off hotelkeeper who planned an open barroom by incorporating as cemetery association and locating plat eighty rods away; law of 1869 forbids saloons within that distance.

Broom corn unprofitable for Illinois farmers; Low Ellis, Mattoon, received $271 for twenty-acre crop which cost $261, besides cultivation; Indian corn on equal area yielded $380.

Tobacco Workers' International Union will aid Chicago independent tobacco dealers and cigarmakers in anti-trust campaign; factories to be unionized and workmen will be urged not to buy trust goods.

Eastern trunk line presidents agreed not to issue exchange passes in 1903; employes of western railroads and families must pay half rates also.

Erie and Lackawanna roads said to be interested in tunnel project at New York.

Interstate railway commission, in annual report, complains of continuation of railway combines, and says competition is being stifled.

Bill to place state employes under merit system, framed under auspices of Illinois Civil Service Association, is made public. Machine politicians object to its stringent provisions and may seek to defeat it.

Senator Depew introduces bill for emergency currency, allowing national banks to issue circulation to extent of 50 per cent. of capital in time of stringency.

House passes legislative appropriation bill, with amendment embodying Hepburn bill appropriating $500,000 for enforcing the Sherman anti-trust law.

Chairman Fowler of House committee on banking introduces currency bill embodying views of Republican members expressed at recent conferences.

Thousands of Chicago workers to be given Christmas presents by big firms. The Crane company will distribute $120,000 of its annual profits among 4,000 employes.

Chicago ordinance to regulate barbers, provides certificates after examination on nature of skin and scalp diseases and antiseptic treatment of razors and shears; nothing said about hair tonics.

Merchant marine committee deadlocked on ship subsidy bill, and neither favorable nor unfavorable report is likely at present session of congress.

Anthracite strike arbitrators told by non-union miners of threats to kill; Wilkesbarre mill manager testified 1,100 employes struck when he refused to discharge two girls whose relatives worked in mines.

Non-union miners testify that they were treated cruelly and suffered many wrongs at hands of union men during coal strike in Pennsylvania.

Gen. Wager Swayne, politician, lawyer and war veteran, dies at his home in New York.

Controller Ridgely, in address to New York state bankers, declared bank circulation can be made elastic by allowing issues exceeding par value of bonds deposited guaranteed by government through tax.

A receiver suggested for Venezuela, on the ground that the revenue, if honestly handled, would be sufficient to meet all claims within six years, and would also remove the incentive for revolution.

Senate committee on education and labor agrees on favorable report on house eight-hour bill, with numerous amendments.

Senate committee on Philippines orders favorable report on bill for establishment of a currency for the Philippines.

FOREIGN.

The transatlantic steamship companies threaten not to let their ships call at Southampton on account of plan to raise tonnage dues.

United States minister at Seoul demands the payment of $1,760,000 for the building of an electric railway.

Two cities in China, menaced by Boxers, are in a state of siege.

Dr. Emma Helwig of Chicago, who was reported missing and perhaps dead about a month ago, turns up in Berlin.

German bundesrath approves the tariff bill in the form in which it passed its third reading in the reichstag.

Gen. Nord, proclaimed president by the army of Hayti, takes possession of the national palace at Port-au-Prince.

One hundred and fifty lives are reported lost in the earthquake which destroyed town in Central Asia.

Electricity will replace steam on one of the leading railways of France during the coming year.

Duel between two French and two Italian fencing masters at Nice to decide best style of national swordmanship resulted in wounds for both Italians; latters' play rapid; French deliberate.

Irish land conferences between landlords and tenants will be held before January 1; Lord Dunraven's endorsement believed to instructions from Buckingham palace; principal landlords, including Lords Ardilaun and Barrymore will attend; coercive measures behind a plan to hurry settlement.

At the presentation of credentials by Ambassador Tower to Kaiser Wilhelm, his majesty promises a very good, though not a very large, exhibit for the St. Louis exposition.

Taff Vale railroad, England, awarded damages against Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants for loss of business through strike; judge declared unlawful conspiracy clear; £37,000 asked; award to be determined.

Fifty-nine Russian students pardoned by czar after being banished to Siberia for rioting.

John Roche, Irish member of British parliament, is sentenced to one month's imprisonment.

Professor Rommsen reports that the latest plan of the kaiser against socialists is to deprive them of representation in reichstag.

Col. Arthur Lynch is indicted for high treason by a jury in London.

French chamber of deputies ratifies extradition treaty with the United States.

Webster's Encyclopedic Dictionary

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Publishers' Column

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The Blade, Toledo, Ohio.

Our Presidents

From Washington to Roosevelt.

A photogravure production of C. Senf's famous painting This noted painting, which is attracting the attention of the art world, has been reproduced in photogravure in all its splendor, richness, soft blending of shades and tones until each President appears before us as in real life. You can see face to face every President of the nation. This work is richer than half-tone, softer than steel engraving, far more expensive to produce than either. The picture is 18x24 inches, and has never before sold for less than $1.00. Our price to Blade readers is 45c, or with the Weekly Blade one year, 65c.

THE BLADE,
Toledo, Ohio.

Waltham and Elgin Watches

We now make the most remarkable offers in the history of the watch business—WALTHAM and ELGIN watches only, regular 18 size and 6 size, in cases of the highest grade. Our gold cases are made of solid gold in two thick plates, reinforced with a sheet of fine composition metal. If properly used the 25-year cases will last a lifetime. Every watch contains Breguet hairspring, quick train, compensation balance, safety pinion, stem winding and setting apparatus of the latest design, and all the greatest improvements known to modern expert watchmakers. WALTHAM and ELGIN watches don't wear out. They are all good. Of course, full (15) jeweled works in 25-year cases are better than 7 jeweled works in 20-year cases, but all are fully guaranteed. Why not have correct time? You can have it if you are fortunate enough to get one of our watches. These offers are not for the general public, but any subscriber may buy all he wishes at these prices, which are far lower than dealers' prices for watches not so good. Our men's watches are suitable for boys and our ladies' watches for girls.

MEN'S GOLD WATCHES.

Our prices include free delivery, in good running order.

No. 71—7-jeweled works, 25-year hunting case		$14.30
No. 72—7-jeweled works, 25-year open-face case		11.65
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No. 75—7-jeweled works, 20-year hunting case		12.20
No. 76—7-jeweled works, 20-year open-face case		9.75
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MEN'S NICKEL SILVER WATCHES.

No. 79—7-jeweled works, nickel silver, open-face case	5.60
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LADIES' GOLD WATCHES.

No. 81—7-jeweled works, 25-year hunting case	12.15
No. 82—15-jeweled works, 25-year hunting case	14.00
No. 83—7-jeweled works, 20-year hunting case	11.35
No. 84—15-jeweled works, 20-year hunting case	13.20

Remember our goods are just exactly as represented, and if you do not find them to be so, we will refund your money.

Address THE BLADE, Toledo, Ohio.

SILVER-PLATED TABLEWARE

We offer our readers, this season, the Rogers Bros.' very handsome Carlton pattern of spoons. These goods are plated with pure silver on nickel silver base, and are fully guaranteed by the manufacturers.

The knives are first coated with copper, then heavily plated with nickel and afterwards with silver. The nickel plate not only doubles the durability of the goods, but, being nearly impervious to moisture, [illegible] knives so plated less liable to rust than those plated in the ordinary way. Prices:

½ doz. Teaspoons	85c
½ doz. Dessert Spoons	$1.50
½ doz. Table Spoons	1.60
½ doz. Knives and Forks	3.75

All goods are sent by open mail or express, all charges prepaid by us. If you desire package registered, send 8c extra. A charge of 2c per letter is made for engraving.

Address all orders to
THE BLADE, Toledo, O.

Cut Paper Patterns.

READ THE OFFER:

These patterns will be mailed to any address for only 10 cents each. In ordering, address "Pattern Department, Blade, Toledo, Ohio," enclose 10 cents silver for each pattern wanted (do not send stamps if you can obtain other funds). State both title and number of pattern.

Full description and directions—as the number of yards and material required, the number and names of the different pieces in the pattern, how to cut and fit each pattern, with a picture of the garment to go by.

2413—Yale Waist.—Model for an Evening Costume.

Sizes 32, 34, 36, 38 and 40 inches bust measure.

2414—Gordon Skirt.

Sizes medium and large. This design would make a dainty evening dress if developed in pale blue satin surah with trimmings of cream-white lace, white satin and liberty silk. The upper part of the waist is in clusters of tucks alternated with lace beading. The goods should be cut by the maker before cutting out the

parts. Shoulder and under-arm seams adjust the waist, which blouses slightly over the belt. The skirt is a stylish circular model, with the fullness at the top disposed in an inverted box-plait and darts. Tucks outline the flounce, and a deep seam finishes the lower edge. Any of the popular silk or wool fabrics are advised. Eight yards of goods 44 inches wide will be required in the medium size, with three-fourths of a yard of silk for collar, cuffs and one yard of all-over lace with one yard of liberty silk for vest.

2411—Dalton Wrapper.

Sizes 32, 34, 36, 38 and 40 inches bust measure. This design is especially desirable, as it embodies so many good points that are needed both for comfort and good style. A fitted lining is given and the skirt is perforated for walking length. The back is Princess style and the fronts are loose, confined by a belt. The Watteau plait at back and front is applied, hence its use is optional. The one-seamed bishop sleeve is recommended for comfort. A dainty afternoon wrapper may

be made of cashmere with an applied lace yoke, as shown in the illustration, and trimmed with rows of narrow velvet ribbon. It will develop equally as well in cotton goods for a simple morning wrapper. Seven and one-fourth yards of material will be required to make this wrapper in the medium size.

2423 Sangster Frock.

Sizes 6, 8 and 10 years. Tucks are still the order of the day, and the design here shown is one of the most popular tucked frocks for children. The tucks in the pretty bloused waist are three-fourths of an inch wide, and those in the circular skirt one and one-half inches wide. The large collar is separate from the waist, and may be used or not as preferred. The prettily tucked sleeve is an attractive feature of this little frock. A fitted lining is given, but its use is optional. Red and

white challie trimmed with ecru lace and belt of red velvet would make a pretty frock. All manner of wool, silk or cotton fabrics may be used. Three yards of goods 44 inches wide will be required to make this frock in the medium size.

DO NOT FAIL to give the Number of pattern and Measurements It will save trouble and delay

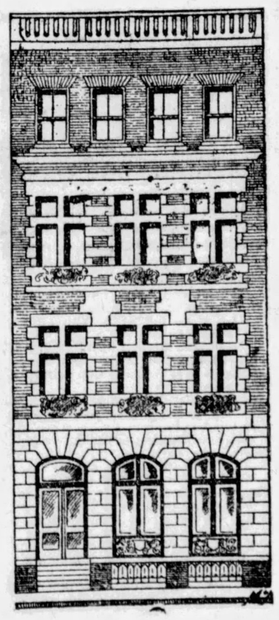
Address with remittance in current funds.

THE BLADE, TOLEDO, O.

FIGHTING THE SALOON

Bishop Potter's Work in the East Side of New York.

New York, Dec. 19.—In order to combat the saloon on its own ground and with its own weapons two buildings are now being erected on the East Side which will afford all the attractions of the saloon without its evils. One of these buildings is to stand at No. 73 Cannon street, almost at the eastern edge of the lower East Side. Its cost of construction is being met by Mrs. Henry Potter, the wife of the Episcopal bishop of New York. The northern wall will adjoin the Alfred Corning Clark Settlement House, which she also built and supports, and which stands on the southwest corner of Cannon and Rivington streets. The excavation for the new building is nearly ready for its founda-



tions. The second building will be erected at Nos. 151 and 153 Clinton street, and the two old buildings which have long occupied this site, are being demolished to make room for the new structure. This building, however, is not the result of one person's charity, but is a business project. It is being built by a stock company known as the Social Halls Association, of which Miss Virginia Potter, a niece of the bishop, is vice president and one of the prime movers. Among those associated with Miss Potter in the venture are Jacob A. Riis, who has made a special study of East Side conditions; Thatcher M. Brown, Frank R. Cordley and Miss Sarah Strauss. Miss Lillian D. Wald, of No. 265 Henry street, who has lived ten years or more in this part of the city, and who is said to have first conceived the idea of such an enterprise, is the president of the company. It may be truthfully said that the scope and purpose of both the Cannon street and the Clinton street houses have not only the sanction, but also the solicitude, of Bishop Potter, whose wife and niece are directly interested in them. The bishop's views regarding the saloon and the best way to fight it are well summed up in the letter which he once wrote to the editor of the Western Christian Advocate and which contained these words: "Something answering to the saloon, that is a place of inexpensive recreation and refreshment, will always be a necessity. The saloon may be driven to cover, but it can not be abolished. Something better, something wholesome, harmless, undefiled and undefiling, must take its place, and so expel it by substitution. Legislation has failed to do this, and prohibition has failed. Denunciation has failed. It is a case for Christian capital, wisely employed, as the history of the Liverpool coffee-houses has shown." There will be nominal fees for the members of the men's clubs, but so small that they will not prevent the poor from enjoying its privileges. Here the workingman will find all the comforts of the saloon, without any of its evils. On the main floor there will be a large dining room, or cafe, where meals will be served at cost, which will be about one-third the price at restaurants. Beer, wine or liquor will be served with meals, but not otherwise. There will be a smoking room open during the entire period for which the club house is open. The front rooms of the upper floors and the roof in summer will be used for recreation purposes and furnished with card tables, billiard tables and other "recreative appliances," in the same way, if not as luxuriously, as a Fifth avenue club house. The surroundings will be wholesome and moral, and in contrast the ordinary corner grog shop will be made to appear squalid and repulsive. If the club is successful Mrs. Potter intends to build others.

ROOSEVELT ASKED TO BE ARBITER

Germany and England Ask Him to Settle Venezuelan Dispute.

Washington, Dec. 20.—President Roosevelt has proposed to the allied powers that the Venzuelan dispute be submitted to the arbitration of The Hague tribunal. The powers have replied with a counter proposal that President Roosevelt himself arbitrate the issues.

An indirect inquiry three or four days ago not eliciting a refusal of the President a request has now been made in direct form. Although Germany is ready to submit her case to any impartial tribunal she would prefer President Roosevelt for the reason that President Castro is more likely to accept the decision of the President of the United States than that of The Hague tribunal. If President Castro evades payment under President Roosevelt's award the people of the United States, it is claimed here, would, with positive pleasure, see the allies compel him to pay up.

The United States is considered here as emerging from the affair with all credit. The Monroe Doctrine has been acknowledged by two of the greatest powers of Europe. President Roosevelt has been accepted as arbitrator by all the parties concerned and the South American states have been persuaded by events that the United States is the only power between them and Europe. The only annoying thing to the German government has been the alleged readiness of Americans to suspect Germany of secret designs. The reported extraordinary distrust of Germany has been a painful surprise to the emperor and to the cabinet.

Roosevelt May Accept.

Washington, Dec. 22.—The United States government is awaiting the reception of formal answer from the allied government to the President's last suggestion that the Venezuelan dispute be referred to The Hague. So far these responses have not come to hand, but it is pretty well understood that they will hold for the arbitration of President Roosevelt himself. Signs point to the President's ultimate acceptance of the trust, though nothing positive is yet known on this point. The state department has learned that President Castro would welcome the selection of President Roosevelt as arbitrator and as all the parties interested are united, the pressure will be hard to resist. Opinion varies as to the termination of the blockade of the Venezuelan ports. In some quarters it is assumed that if President Roosevelt shall accept the duty of arbitrator, the allies will call off the blockade at once. On the other hand it is pointed out that custom requires the terms of the arbitration to be accurately defined, and this consumes time, pending which the blockade will continue.

London, Dec. 20.—The official proclamation of the blockade of Venezuelan ports was gazetted this morning and becomes effective today:

The text of the proclamation is as follows:

"Foreign Office, Dec. 20, 1902.

"It is hereby notified that as the United States of Venezuela have failed to comply with the demands of his majesty's government, a blockade by his majesty's naval forces of the ports of La Guaira, Carenero, Guanta, Cumana and Carupano and the mouth of the Orinoco is declared and such blockade will be effectively maintained from and after December 20, subject to the allowance of the following days of grace:

"For vessels sailing before the date of this notification from West Indian ports and vessels on the east coast of the continent of America—ten days for steamers and twenty days for sailing vessels.

"From all other ports—Twenty days for steamers and forty days for sailing vessels.

"For vessels lying in the ports now declared to be blockaded, fifteen days.

"Vessels which attempt to violate the blockade will render themselves liable to all measures authorized by the laws of nations and by the respective treaties between his majesty's government and the different powers."

Berlin, Dec. 20.—The German government today published a decree embodying the conditions of the blockade of Germany's portion of the Venezuelan coast. It was as follows: "The government of Venezuela having rejected the demand which the imperial government communicated to it, the ports of Porto Cabello and Maracaibo are hereby declared to be under blockade beginning December 20. Ships under other than the Venezuelan flag which sailed from West Indian or other east Amerocan ports before the publication of this decree will receive a period of 20 days for sailing vessels and 10 days for others to reach their destination.

"Sailing vessels from all other ports are allowed 20 and steamers 20 days.

"Ships under other than the Venezuelan flag lying in blockaded ports upon the publication of this decree are allowed 15 days to sail.

"Ships which attempt to break the blockade will be subject to the provisions which apply to neutrals under international law and in accordance with treaties. (Signed) VON BUELOW."

Paris, Dec. 20.—A cable message from Fort De France, Martinique, announces that the French cruiser Troude, which was assigned a few days ago to protect French citizens in Venezuela, will now remain outside of Venezuelan waters, as all anxiety regarding the welfare of the French citizens has been dispelled.

The foreign office here has received from the charge d'affaires at Caracas, confirmation of the announcements that President Castro had conferred complete powers on Minister Bowen to arrange the terms for arbitration. The dispatch adds that their expressed confident belief is that the exercise by the United States of the powers granted to Minister Bowen undoubtedly will secure an adjustment of the questions in dispute.

Informal exchanges of views between the chancelleries of Rome, London and Paris indicate the willingness of the British, Italian and French governments to agree to the creation of a mixed commission as a means of adjusting the difficulties.

Panama, Dec. 20.—News received here from the Venezuelan frontier is to the effect that the revolutionary movement against President Castro is now more powerful than ever. General Matos is said to be at the head of a strong army and to be on good terms with the representatives of the foreign powers. It is believed among the Venezuelan revolutionists that the present movement will be successful.

San Juan, P. R., Dec. 20.—The United States cruiser Albany has been ordered to La Guaira. She will return here immediately from that port. This step is taken in accordance with instructions from Secretary Moody, transmitted through Admiral Dewey. She goes to convey an assistant to Minister Bowen.

London, Dec. 20.—A special dispatch received here from Brussels says the Dutch minister to Venezuela, Dr. Van Leyden, has been recalled, and that Dutch interest in Venezuela have been committed to United States Minister Bowen.

Rome, Dec. 20. — A semi-official announcement places the Italian claims against Venezuela at $2,000,000.

A WAR BLOCKADE.

London, Dec. 19.—Great Britain has sent a reply to the United States in regard to the suggestion that the Venezuelan question should be submitted to arbitration. The tenor of the reply, it is expected here, will tend to bring about some arrangement for a satisfactory solution, while thoroughly safeguarding interests of the powers concerned.

In a printed reply, made public today, to the recent question in parliament of Gibson Bowles, conservative, Premier Balfour says no intimation has been received from the government of the United States that it will object to American shipping being interfered with in the event of a blockade of the Venezuelan coast. The objections to the blockade which it is proposed to establish have been carefully considered. They cannot, however, be altogether removed, as some of them are inherent to that particular class of naval operations.

Mr. Bowles also asked "whether in view of the destruction by the Germans of two gunboats and the consequent impossibility of holding them as pledges the government proposes to continue joint action with Germany?" The premier replied in the affirmative.

The executive committee of the British branch of the international union passed a resolution last evening which was introduced by W. T. Stead, expressing regret that Great Britain had engaged in war with Venezuela without attempting to secure arbitration in accordance with The Hague peace convention, and urging the people of the United States to protest against war being made upon any American state.

The note to Reuter's Telegram company announcing that Great Britain had sent a reply to the United States adds: "The statements issuing from Caracas

New Life to Weak Men

Old Men Made Young Again—Weak Men Find Old Time Strength and Power of Youth.

TRIAL PACKAGE MAILED FREE.

To the men who have tried every known remedy to revive their waning power or lost manhood, and have given up in despair, the following message comes as a

Chief of Staff, State Medical Institute.

most blessed promise. This new discovery restores all men who suffer with any form of sexual weakness, resulting from youthful folly, premature loss of strength and memory, weak back, varicocele or emaciation of parts. It gives the warmth, strength and development just where it is needed, and cures at once all the ills and troubles that come of years of misuse of the functions, for it has been an absolute success in all cases. A simple request to the State Medical Institutes, 1922 Elektron Building, Ft. Wayne, Ind., will bring you one of these free trial packages, in a plain wrapper, without any marks of identity as to contents or where it comes from. The Institute has had so many inquiries from men who are unable to leave home on their business to be treated, that it has perfected this splendid home treatment and sends it in free trial packages to all parts of the world to show just how easy and simple it is to be cured at home of any sexual weakness when this marvelous new sexual discovery is employed. The Institute makes no restrictions and any man who writes will receive by mail a free trial of this wonderful remedy absolutely free. Those who write need have no fear of any publicity, as the State Medical Institute is an old established institution, incorporated by the State for 50 years.

THE VENEZUELAN IMBROGLIO.

Caracas, the capital city of Venezuela, and now the centre of interest in the South American imbroglio, is one of the prettiest towns on the western hemisphere. It is situated 24 miles by rail from its seaport of La Guaira and nearly 3,000 feet above the level of the sea, its position thus making it a problem for military and naval gunners. Between the sea and Caracas rises a high mountain range, through the passes of which winds the wonderful railroad between La Guaira and the capital. The water is plentiful and is supplied by several streams running through or near the city. The streets are narrow but comparatively clean and well paved. Caracas was founded in the sixteenth century and has passed through varying fortunes in the meantime. In 1812 it was almost destroyed by an earthquake, in which 12,000 of its people were killed. From its market are exported large quantities of hides, cattle, cotton, coffee and cocoa. The population is about 80,000.

CUSTOM-HOUSE AT LA GUAIRA.

HERBERT W. BOWEN.

Who has looked after the interests of the United so well in Caracas, Venezuela. Mr. Bowen is the son of the late Henry C. Bowen, who, for many years, was editor of the Independent, and one of the ablest men in the United States diplomatic service.

to the effect that President Castro has empowered Minister Bowen to act as the representative of Venezuela are regarded in Lonnon as open to question. Any such action on the part of President Castro would be considered wholly beside the mark. The powers concerned will deal solely with the United States in the matter of arbitration. The government of President Castro will not be consulted in any form, not even as to the terms on which arbitration might be acceptable to the powers."

Caracas, Dec. 19.—It has been learned from an official source that the allies have notified the Venezuelan authorities at La Guaira of the blockade, to become effective Saturday, December 20, at 3 p. m., of the ports of La Guaira, Puerto Cabello, Coro, Maracaibo, Carupano and Barcelona.

Document and letters, which have been seized by the Venezuelan authorities, are said to prove the connection of the Matos revolutionists with the recent demonstrations of the allies against Venezuela.

It is reported that since the capture of the Venezuela fleet, munitions of war have been shipped openly from Willemstad, Curacao, to points on the Venezuelan coast, and steamers are said to have sailed from Port of Spain, Trinidad, with the knowledge, it is alleged, of the British authorities there, bearing arms and ammunitions to the Venezuelan revolutionists at Ciudad, Bolivar, on the Orinico river.

It is declared here that these statements sustain Venezuela's past assertions that Great Britain has been assisting the Matos revolutionary movement.

La Guaira, Dec. 19.—The German cruiser Falke, which had been anchored for two days at the entrance of Lake Maracaibo, yesterday captured the Venezuelan schooner Victoria. After cutting down her mainmast, thus disabling her, the Germans abandoned the vessel. This action has caused great indignation among the Venezuelans and excitement runs high at Maracaibo, where the people have been parading the streets, uttering cries against Great Britain and Germany.

Washington, Dec. 19.—It is understood that the blockade declared by the allies against Venezuela, to begin Saturday, is to be a "war blockade," as contrasted with the "peace blockade," which has been in operation since the trouble with Venezuela assumed an acute stage. Ordinarily, a legal blockade is preceded by a declaration of war, but at times this formality is dispensed with and a blockade maintained just as though war had been formally declared. To all intents and purposes war has existed and such condition has been recognized by the governments of the allies. A formal declaration that a blockade has been established will be sent to all the powers and it will be recognized by the United States government.

THE WORK OF CONGRESS

Measures Discussed and Passed in House and Senate.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 16.—In the Senate Mr. Dillingham concluded his remarks in opposition to the omnibus statehood bill, and by unanimous consent it was agreed there should be no further discussion of the measure until the Senate reconvenes on January 6. For half an hour the militia bill was up, Mr. Bacon on constitutional grounds opposing the section which provides for a reserve force of trained men. An amendment offered by Mr. Foraker was agreed to striking out as much of section 24 of the bill as relates to drills, inspections and instruction of men enrolled in the reserve force. Mr. Morgan (Ala.) asked that his bill fixing the salaries of the isthmian canal commission at $5,000 a year be referred to the committee on interoceanic canals. He said he had been informed that the present commissioners were paid $1,000 a month each and that their services had extended over twenty-nine and one-half months. In response to an inquiry from Mr. Hale, Mr. Morgan said that out of the twenty-nine and one-half months the commission had spent six months in Nicaragua and two weeks in Panama. The bill was referred as requested. A joint resolution offered by Mr. Wetmore (R. I.) was adopted, appropriating $5,000 for the purchase of a bronze bust of President McKinley. Senators Allison, Hale and Cockrell were named as conferees on the bill appropriating $50,000 to pay the salaries of the anthracite coal strike commission. A bill was passed providing for an additional district judge in the district of Minnesota; also a bill relating to ceded lands on the Fort Hall Indian reservation Idaho; also a resolution directing the Secretary of the Interior to transmit to the Senate the report of Dr. Sheldon Jackson upon the introduction of domestic reindeer in Alaska, and a bill authorizing the construction of a bridge across the Savannah river at Sand Bar Ferry, now the City of Augusta, Ga.

The House passed the bill transferring from the Treasury Department to the Department of Agriculture the power to establish regulations for the suppression of contagious diseases among live stock, and devoted the remainder of the day to the legislative, executive and judicial appropriation bill. After completing 122 pages of the bill committee rose. A resolution was adopted calling upon the Attorney General for information as to whether, in the case of eastern Cherokees versus the United States, the award of December 19, 1901, is readjudicated and to advise the House whether the reasons set forth in the opinion of the Department of Justice of December 4, 1858, now constitute a valid defense to the payment of the claim. Bills were passed to authorize the Southwest Louisiana Rice Growers' association to construct a lock and dam at the mouth of certain bayous in Wyoming; to authorize the Rice Irrigation & Improvement Co., of Louisiana, to construct a dam at the mouth of the Mermenteau river and to authorize the construction of a lighthouse at Mukilteo Point, Washington.

December 17. — The senate passed the pension appropriation bill without discussion. It carries $139,847,000. An urgent deficiency bill also was passed. The amount carried by this bill is $1,148,450. It includes $1,000,000 to enable the secretary of agriculture to stamp out the foot and mouth disease, which has become epidemic in the New England states. The militia bill was up for a short time, Mr. Bacon, of Georgia, continuing his remarks against the constitutionality of the provision for a reserved force of trained men. The senate concurred in the amendments to a bill providing for the survey of certain lands in Wyoming. Mr. Morgan (Ala.) gave notice that on Saturday he would address the senate regarding the construction of an isthmian canal. A number of minor bills were passed, including one to make Wilmington, N. C., a port through which merchandise may be imported for transportation without appraisement, and another reimbursing the Mellert Foundry & Machine Co., of Reading, Pa., for money retained by the United States for failure to complete a contract within a specified time. Mr. Burrows called attention to the fact that his colleague, Mr. Alger, was without a committee assignment because of the difficulty of making one at this time. He therefore tendered his resignation as a member of the committee on military affairs in order that Mr. Alger might be appointed to the vacancy, which was done. Mr. Kean then called up the resolution respecting the death of Senator Sewell, and delivered a touching tribute to his memory.

In the house a bill was passed to extend the act of June 6, 1900, which authorizes the sale of stone and timber for use in Indian territory, so as to provide for its sale to railroads parts of whose lines are in the territory. Saturday, January 31, after 3 p. m., was set aside for exercises in connection with the acceptance from Maryland of the statues of Charles Carroll, of Carrollton, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, and John Hancock, president of the Continental congress. The house then resumed the consideration of the legislative appropriation bill, which was passed practically without amendment except the insertion of a provision appropriating $500,000 to enforce the Sherman anti-trust law and directing the attorney general to proceed to the prosecution of all violators of the law. This was passed without division. The committees then were called. The unfinished business was the bill to prohibit military and naval bands from competing with civilian bands, which was defeated for a third reading, 30 to 42. A bill was passed to transfer the census records from 1820 to 1900 to the census bureau.

December 20.—There were 27 senators in their seats when the senate was called to order for the last sitting before the Christmas holidays. Mr. Allison, of the senate conferees on the coal strike arbitration bill, presented the report of the conference committee. He explained that the senate fix a definite sum for the expenses and compensation of the commissioners and employes and took the question of fixing these out of the hands of the president, but that the senate conferees had yielded to the house to the extent of allowing $15 per day to the commissioners for expenses instead of $10 as fixed by the senate. The report was agreed to.

There were not over 75 members of the house present at the last session before the holiday recess. Immediately after convening Mr. Cannon explained that it was important that the coal strike commission bill and the urgent deficiency bills be finally disposed of before the holiday recess. Mr. Cannon presented the conference report and the report was adopted without dissension. The house remained in session until 1 a. m. the bill was enrolled and signed by the speaker and then at 12:35 adjourned until January 5, 1903.

DR. FRANK STRONG.

Lawrence, Kan., Dec. 18.—Dr. Frank Strong, recently inaugurated chancellor of the University of Kansas, at Law-

rence, has received the most flattering attentions, and promises of support for the institution. The University of Kansas is a young, but strong institution, which is liberally supported by the state.

DEWEY'S FLEET.

San Juan, P. R., Dec. 17.—Admiral Dewey has decided to make a tour of the northern islands of the West Indies during the approaching holidays. He will remain at San Juan until Dec. 23, when a reception and ball in his honor will be given. The admiral will then cross the island and return here to join the Mayflower, using the vessel to visit St. Thomas and other ports.

The fleet was exercised in squadron formation yesterday. Admiral Dewey was greatly interested in the maneuvers and commended the officers upon the way in which they handled their ships.

PLAGUE ON A SHIP.

New York, Dec. 17.—Three cases of bubonic plague are under treatment in the Swinburne island hospital at quarantine. The sufferers are the first and second cooks and the second steward of the Prince line steamer Saxon Prince, which arrived from Durban, South Africa, when, on inspection of the crew, three were found to be ill. Thorough investigation convinced Health Officer Doty that they had all the symptoms of the plague and they were taken to Swinburne island, where cultures were made. The result of the examination made known last night confirmed the diagnosis made at the inspection.

Last Holiday Steamer.

New York, Dec. 18.—The last steamer from New York which will reach the other side of the Atlantic before Christmas, the St. Paul, of the American line, has sailed with 460,615 in money orders, payable in fifteen European countries.

THINK HARD.

It Pays to Think About Food.

The unthinking life some people lead often causes trouble and sickness, as illustrated in the experience of a lady who resides in Fond Du Lac, Wis.

"About four years ago I suffered dreadfully from indigestion, always having eaten whatever I liked, not thinking of the digestible qualities. This indigestion caused palpitation of the heart so badly I could not walk up a flight of stairs without sitting down once or twice to regain breath and strength.

I became alarmed and tried dieting, wore my clothes very loose, and many other remedies, but found no relief.

Hearing of the virtues of Grape-Nuts and Postum Food Coffee, I commenced using them in place of my usual breakfast of coffee, cakes, or hot biscuit, and in one week's time I was relieved of sour stomach and other ills attending indigestion. In a month's time my heart was performing its functions naturally and I could climb stairs and hills and walk long distances.

I gained ten pounds in this short time and my skin became clear and I completely regained my health and strength. I continue to use Grape-Nuts and Postum for I feel that I owe my good health entirely to their use. I like the delicious flavor of Grape-Nuts and by making Postum according to directions, it cannot be distinguished from the highest grade of coffee." Name given by Postum Co., Battle Creek, Mich.

Est. 1752.

When you take a Pill, take a Brandreth Pill

Purely Vegetable.
Always Effective.

Cures Chronic Constipation.

BRANDRETH'S PILLS purify the blood, invigorate the digestion and cleanse the stomach and bowels. They stimulate the liver and carry off vitiated bile and other depraved secretions. They are a tonic medicine that regulate, purify and fortify the whole system

Constipation, Dizziness, Drowsiness, Coated Tongue, Bad Breath, Headache, Pain in Stomach, Indigestion, Dyspepsia, Liver Complaint, Bilious Headache, Jaundice or disorder arising from impure state of the blood.

FOR SALE BY DRUGGISTS. 40 PILLS IN EVERY BOX.

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$2 to $3 PER DAY CAN BE MADE - TACKING Signs, distributing samples, circulars, etc. to secure distribution for every section of the U. S. and want man to do the work. Permanent occupation. HORN ASSOCIATION, 1135 BROADWAY, NEW YORK.

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This is a genuine offer made to introduce the **Peoples Cream Separator** in every neighborhood. It is the best and simplest in the world. We ask that you show it to your neighbors who have cows. Send your name and the name of the nearest freight office. Address

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Ladies to do piece work at their homes. We furnish all material and pay from $7 to $12 weekly. Experience unnecessary. Send stamped envelope to Royal Co., Dept. 3, 34 Monroe St., Chicago

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Write me for the best list of farm bargains in the United States. Stock, Grain and Fruit Farms. Every up-to-date advantage. Mention this paper. S. V. R. Hayes, Grand Rapids, Mich.

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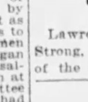

writes FRED. BLODGETT, of N. Y. J. L. HARRIS, of La., writes: "Am making $8.00 to $8.00 every day I work." MRS. M. ANDERSON, of Iowa, writes: "I made $3.50 to $6.00 a day." Hundreds doing likewise. So can you. $5.00 to $10.00 daily made plating jewelry, tableware, bicycles, metal goods with gold, silver, nickel, etc. Enormous demand. We teach you FREE. Write—offer free.

G. GRAY & CO., Plating Works, A Miami Bldg., Cincinnati, O.

INTO the glory of Christmas dawn
With a lily for love and a rose for song,
We send you greeting and gladness and flowers;
We commend you to all the heavenly powers.

CHRISTMAS GREETING:

WHEN Christmas bells are pelting
The air with silver chimes,
Let love, the world's beginning
End fear and hate and sinning. . . . . .

EMILY S. BOUTON, Editor.

Keynotes of Harmony

Wednesday.

Today is your day and mine, the only day we have, the day in which we play our part. What our part may signify in the great whole we may not understand, but we are here to play it and now is our time. This we know; it is a part of action, not of whining. It is a part of love, not cynicism.

Thursday.

eB not deceived—the significance of his world-message is to be read in the philosophy of Jesus as expressed in his life and conduct. I grant you he rose from the dead. It is that resurrection that concerns us most. Today I would rise from my dead thoughts and live a divine life.

Friday.

Surely it is not so much our concern how long we may live as how we shall live. Above all, let us live well, as becomes men, amply nourished from the abundant source of Truth.

Saturday.

In that day that I have made friends with myself, made no apologies, thought no unkind thoughts, kept myself open to the divine influences, lived free and unfettered—in that day I shall be at peace.

Sunday.

Early in his ministry Jesus plainly and sweetly taught the toiling fisherfolk whom he had gathered about him the necessity of "living the life" day by day, free from anxious thought about tomorrow.

Monday.

If we are passing through what seems to be a wilderness let us go to work and fertilize a garden in the sand.

Tuesday.

Be not content with living other people's thoughts. Let thine own life have an individuality all its own.

Hail To the Spirit Of The Christmas Green

EMILY S. BOUTON

"And I will arise and rejoice today,
In the world's glad loving and giving,
And will sing a song in my heart alway
For the untold richness of living."

A white world without and a green world within; the mistletoe swinging low and the holly wreaths in their shining glory hanging in pretty festoons from every point of vantage; the laurel over the hearthstone and the fir tree in the corner,—all speaking of life and love and joy.

This is the picture of many homes here and over the sea, where the Christmas symbols, clothed in green, fresh, and unwithered and beautiful, tell the story of Christmas rejoicing. They speak of the hope that is undying, of a life that persists in the midst of the frosts and snows of age and pain and disappointment. They recall to the thought the story of Jesus of Nazareth; of the Man of Sorrows who led the way our feet must tread in order to reach the land of our longing. And then, withal, glad Christmas bells are ringing;
The Christian world is Christmas carols singing.

In the midst of this joy comes sometimes the thought of whether in the long past there have not been those who, before the coming of the dear Christ nineteen hundred years ago, used the symbols so vital with meaning to us, saw "the spirit of the green," and held festivals of rejoicing over the truth that there is a regenerative power which makes the spiritually dead alive again.

It does not take away from the beauty and glory of the Christmas tide to learn that long before the shepherds followed the shining star to Bethlehem, the 25th of December was significant to an imaginative people of the deeper things of life. In Persia the god of the sun or fire-worship, had its nativity at that time. The Hindu cosmology declares that Krishna, "the illuminated one," who lived five thousand years before Christ, had his birth at that season of the year, and singular as it may seem, modern archaeology shows that this was the nativity of the "central mythologic personages of all nations." And it is no doubt true that the early Christian fathers took the holidays of the pagans and converted them to the use of the church, displacing only the objects of worship.

We are told that all these festivals originally had to do with the sun, but when the esoteric meaning is reached, the chance that connected them with Christian observance was a happy one. The sun is the source of the light and heat that vivifies the physical world, but it is also the symbol of the Light that is eternal, in which is no shadow of change, no hint of fading. It was only ignorance and love of the material that turned the hearts of the people from the spirit to the letter, just as, alas! today, the Christmas time is becoming the mere season of giving and taking while the thought of what it stands for, its inner meaning, is passing away.

From these old festivals, too, came the use of the green things to make the homes and places of worship beautiful. The people believed that in them lived the spirits of the woods, the power of living growth that kept them green when all else had yielded to the embrace of the ice king, and taken upon themselves the semblance, if not the reality, of death. The ancient Druids, whose places of worship were in the great forests, those wonderful natural temples, declared them peopled by sylvan spirits. These dwelt in the holly, the mistletoe, the fir, and the laurel, lovingly protecting them in the winter from the chilling frosts that so cruelly enwrapped their neighbors. Into the dwelling of the people were carried branches, in the faith that this spirit of life went with them there, and would exercise protecting care over the inmates. And so came this pretty custom that brightens our homes and churches at the Christmas season with these beautiful emblems of life and good cheer.

Both the season and the method of observance, however, mean little beside the deep inner significance of that for which they stand. This is not the life of Jesus the man, but the teachings of Jesus the Christ, and they are what matter most to humanity today. In the story of the Nazarene is shadowed forth the whole evolutionary law, the law through which we are to gain the life eternal.

Let me quote from Stanton Kirkham Davis in his thought of the World-Message given in the current Mind:

"The simple fact as it appeals to the rational consciousness was the appearance of a man gifted with a perception of the Soul; a man of heart and vision, who saw that Love was the substance of life—was life itself. The world attributes that almost inconceivable influence to the man, but it is to be explained only by the force of the message. * * * It was the impersonal voice of Love speaking ever to the world, as constant as the surf on the shore."

You see what he means. Jesus voiced a universal law that is eternally true. It concerns the potentiality for growth into higher conditions for each and every one of us. He constantly affirmed that what was possible for him was possible for all, that to identify ourselves with the One is the object of existence in the body. And so we may well believe that immortality is not impossible—since he in whom the Divine Man was awakened has told us so—because of the divinity which sleeps in us all. He, the Christ, has given battle to every sin, to every sorrow, to every natural terror, and conquered.

The Christmas tide then is rightfully a season of love, of hope, of promise. Well may joy bells ring, proclaiming peace on earth, and good will to men, since, reading the world-message of the day aright, we learn of the existence of a larger, fuller life into which we may grow, in which the "wings of freedom are unfolded, and where progress is perpetual. It depends upon ourselves, our own thinking—for thought molds the future—our own way of living.

Make the Christmas radiant with hope. Look lovingly upon the Christmas green rejoicing in the never ending growth which it symbolizes, and bring its spirit into this day and into all the days of the coming year.

The Cozy Corner

The Glorious "Christmas Present."

Apropos to the season, Mrs. Alice Kearney writes from Illinois: We keep Christmas in the old-fashioned way at our house. Not one bit of the pleasant mystery of smuggled-in treasures, and hidden parcels, is abated. The cold-blooded notion of allowing people to select their own presents, or of giving them money to buy gifts for themselves, is not to be tolerated. Everyone from grandfather to the 5-year-old has some little "surprise" gift for everyone else.

Santa Claus is an exploded myth, not because we felt we were deceiving the children by letting them believe in the good old saint, but because of the wisdom of the neighbor's children who had been taught that "making believe" is falsifying, and that a fairy tale is naught but a string of lies.

They lost no time in informing our tots that there "was no Santa Claus," but fortunately the Christmas tree is a reality not to be questioned and we have one every year. The children have a hand in dressing it, and usually do all the ornamental part the day before Christmas. Beginning with the youngest, each one is given an opportunity to put his own special gifts on the tree, "all by himself," and they have become very expert in disguising articles by doing them up in odd-shaped packages.

On the great day, we are early astir, and everyone takes part in trimming the rooms with green and preparing the Christmas dinner. After that is over, the short winter day is so near its close that the tree is soon illuminated, and the long evening spent in gathering and inspecting its varied fruits.

No regretful allusions to "Christmas past" or gloomy predictions for "Christmases Future" are indulged in. We live in the glorious "Christmas present"—no pun intended—and enjoy every moment of the merry day!

According to Her Way of Thinking.

Laura of the Porch slipped in to say something like this:

I have two neighbors who are the greatest possible contrast to each other. Mrs. A. is never in a hurry; her work never "gets ahead of her." Mrs. B. is always just about twenty-four hours behind, and on the keen trot from morning to night trying to catch up.

I think Mrs. A. begins on the 26th of December planning for the next Christmas. She has a little note-book in which she jots down any "data" obtained from her gifts received, or during the early months of the year as to the desires and wishes of her family and friends, and when Christmas day comes around everyone is surprised and delighted to receive from her precisely what they have been longing for.

Mrs. B., on the contrary, with the best of intentions, never finds time for her Christmas shopping until a couple of weeks before the holidays. We all know what that means; shops full of people, clerks hurried and worried, and the shopper so confused by the multitude of pretty things displayed, that she cannot make one sane selection, but spends her money recklessly and finds when she reaches home that the one above all whom she wished to remember has been overlooked and the gifts she has chosen for the others are not likely to be more satisfactory to them than to herself.

Both these neighbors remembered me most kindly a year ago, and their gifts were nearly equal in value so far as the money cost went, but Mrs. A. had noted down a careless wish of mine, uttered early in the summer, and had taken time to make for me a most useful little article, while Mrs. B. had been so hurried that she had selected something of no earthly use to me, as she herself bewailed, when she presented it!

It is the appropriateness of a gift; the thoughtfulness it implies that makes it valuable according to my way of thinking, rather than the money that it represents.

Mistakes in Christmas Giving.

Can there be mistakes in giving all we can afford at this season so especially devoted to the exchange of gifts? Indeed there can, and mistakes that work more harm than do many others. First, there is the mistake of leaving out the personal love in the giving, and making it a mere matter of "paying your debts." Another is the giving of a dinner to several hundred poor families, when, in all probability, there will not be one of these who will not be provided with a dinner in some other way, and more than half of the supplies will be wasted. One has but to attend one of these public "feeds" to realize the truth of this statement: The cost of such a dinner would help much more if applied to the purchase of fuel and proper clothing for some of these same families.

The folly of giving without investigation is aptly illustrated in this story of an incident that occurred in a neighboring city last Christmas: A benevolent society announced that all "deserving poor" would be furnished a turkey and the trimmings by calling at a certain place the day before Christmas. Some investigation was made, but there were many served who had not been looked after. Among them was a woman whom no one knew, but as she said she had never had to ask charity before and had not tasted turkey for several years she had her basket filled and went away rejoicing. A day or two afterwards it was learned by the society that this woman kept a boarding house, and through the kindness of the many well meaning but indiscriminate givers in different parts of the city had been able to lay in quite a stock af provisions.

To be sure it is better that many unworthy ones should be helped than that one should suffer from neglect and hunger on the day of days, but it would be better to be sure you are helping the proper persons.

Another mistake we frequently make is to overstrain our purses to buy gifts for our friends who really do not care for what we can afford. On the whole, the best rule for Christmas giving is:

"Be it so with ours :our aim, not debts to pay,
Nor any recompense save love to win.
Nor any grosser feeling to convey
Than brought the wise men's gifts to Bethelehem's inn.
Those rate we best that no return afford
Save the purse sense of having found our Lord."

J. G. R.

Christmas Ways.

How Uncle Sam Observes Christmas is the subject of an article in the December St. Nicholas, written by Clifford Howard, who tells of the ways Christmas is celebrated in various parts of Uncle Sam's Possessions. The following extracts are part of his story, and as the story is true it makes it all the more interesting:

Before the missionaries and the American settlers went to Hawaii, the natives knew nothing about Christmas, but now they all celebrate the day, and do it, of course, in the saw way as the Americans who live there. The main difference between Christmas in Honolulu and Christmas in New York, is that in Honolulu in December the weather is like June in New York. Birds are warbling in the leafy trees; gardens are overflowing with roses and carnations; fields and mountain slopes are ablaze with color; and a sunny sky smiles dreamily upon the glories of a summer day. In the morning people go to church, and during the day there are sports and games and merrymaking of all sorts. The Chrisxmas dinner is eaten out of doors in the shade of the veranda, and everybody is happy and contented.

The Porto Rican boys and girls would be frightened out of their wits if Santa Claus should come to them in a sleigh drawn by reindeer and should try to enter the houses and fill their stockings. Down there Santa Claus does not need reindeer or any other kind of steeds, for the children scay that he just comes flying through the air like a bird. Neither does he bother himself looking for stockings, for such things are not so plentiful in Porto Rico as they are in cooler climates. Instead of stockings, the children use little boxes, which they make themselves. These they place on the roofs and in the courtyards, and old Santa Claus drops the gifts into them as he flies around at night with his bag on his back.

He is more generous in Porto Rico than he is anywhere else. He does not come on Christmas eve only, but is likely to call around every night or two during the week. Each morning, therefore, the little folks run out eagerly to see whether anything more has been left in their boxes during the night.

Christmas in Porto Rico is a church festival of much importance, and the celebration of it is made up chiefly of religious ceremonies intended to commemorate the principal events in the life of the Saviour. Beginning with the celebration of his birth, at Christmastime, the feast-days follow one another in rapid succession. Indeed, it may justly be said that they do not really come to an end until Easter.

The Shakers observe Christmas by a dinner at which the men and women both sit down at the same table. This custom of theirs is the thing that serves to make Christmas different from any other day among the Shakers. During all the rest of the year the men and women eat their meals at separate tables.

THE MERRY-GO-ROUNDS

The story by "Oregon Bach," for December, is given today:

THE EXPERIENCE OF A LONELY BOY.

It was "God's way," and the ground hid from my sight all of the earthly friends I had, when my mother and sister were buried and I, a boy of ten years, was left to do the best I could. The twenty acres of steep, hillside farm were sold to pay the expenses of the last illness of my mother and her funeral expenses, and no one seemed to know or care, that Towser and I were left alone in the deserted and lonely house after the sale.

One evening there areose a great storm —the like of which had never been seen by the oldest inhabitant of the surrounding country. I was not really frightened, for my sister had told me the story of Jonah and the whale and i had a dim idea that if the house should not float, like Noah's ark, I should find a whale who would give me shelter for a few days.

When the storm began to be very severe, and it was uncertain whether the rain or hail would get the mastery, I climbed up into the garret and looked upon a wonderful scene through the little window that hung on leather hinges in the south gable. Hill and valley had the same appearance—all looked like a vast ocean and when the large hailstones would strike the surface of the water, it would shoot up as I thought it would when a whale spouts, in the sea.

After the storm had ceased, the hail melted and the water ran off the land, the trees, fences and buildings looked as if the battle of Waterloo had been fought in our yard.

The following day an old lady who lived nearby, came over to see if I was yet alive. She feared that I would have been so frightened, I might have gone out of the house and been killed by the hail. You might suppose that this fear was only the result of a woman's exaggerated fancy, but to believe that a ten-year-old boy would have stood very little chance for his life had he ventured out, you had only to look in her yard to see geese, chickens, pigs, and even a calf, lying dead from the hail storm, while in the woods the bodies of squirrels, rabbits and birds were mute witnesses of the fatal power of the storm.

At this time another sorrow came to me. Towser, who had been my faithful and only friend, had lived his life, and death claimed him as he lay curled up in the chimney corner, resting himself for the cares of another day. I noticed that he did not rise in the morning to eat the scanty breakfast I shared with him, and upon calling him and failing to receive the usual fond greeting, I placed my hand on his head and found it cold, and saw that this friend had gone, as had all others. It seemed to me as if I would have given all the pleasures that might come to me in this life, if I could then have gone to be with my mother and sister.

One day when the world seemed darkest, a man came within sight of the house and commenced building a fence. I went out to him, feeling, I think, very much as a homeless, friendless dog would toward any one who would speak a kind word to him. I had already learned that I would not be welcome where I was not helpful, so I held up one end of the rails while he put the other end in place. We worked on until the sun began to sink in the west, then he put on his coat, saying, "It is time to quit; come home with me and get your supper." There are few boys who would have refused such an invitation and I was no exception to the rule. When we reached his door, the old lady who had been to see if I was killed by the hail, met us and gave me a good hot supper. I felt a little more as if life was worth living. It was as I used to feel when I came home from fishing, or rabbiting, and my mother and sister would give me a warm welcome and sit listening as I told how I would treat my wife when I was a man, and of the great things I hoped to accomplish.

Often in these conversations I promised them that I would never drink whisky, use tobacco, gamble, or fool my money away, as my father always did. I do not know that these loving visits did any good to them, but, God bless them, if they could meet me today, I could tell them truly that I have kept the promises I made then.

After we had eaten our supper I was invited to remain all night, and for the first time for months I went to bed like other folks.

After a good breakfast the next morning the old lady told me she wanted to start a chicken farm and asked me if I could help her. Of course I gladly accepted the proposition, and for many years I remained with this good old couple, helping them, and being helped by them, to make a respectable, honest man of myself in spite of the difficulties I had met with. Whatever of success that has come to me in after years I consider the result of my own hard work and perseverance, but I shall never fail to remember, with grateful heart, the kindness of those friends when I was a lonely, homeless and discouraged boy.—Oregon Bach.

AN ANSWERED PRAYER.

Written for The Blade.

"'I haven't the money, Mr. Spencer,' of course, that's what he'll say, but out he goes this time, and no mistake. I'm tired of fooling with a man that can't pay his rent."

A chilling December wind whistled around Mr. Spencer's hat rim, but he thrust his hands deeper into his overcoat pockets, grumbling his discontent. James B. Spencer was rich, as everybody knew. He was oil king in an oil producing valley, so why should he not be prosperous? Every flourishing well was on his land, and his land reached so far as eye could see. If the magnate had been a poor man he would have been called cranky. As it was, his riches modified the term to eccentric. He was generally disliked. Whether he suffered from injustice or not, I cannot say, but he was considered mean, hard-hearted and selfish. This evening he was in one of his worst humors. He had just finished a heated argument with his housekeeper, a patient old soul who had never rebelled, but had borne his harshness since the death of his wife.

Ellis Finney was a tenant who had paid his rent promptly for years, until misfortune in the guise of sickness had dealt him a blow, and his little family were in dire distress. For some time he had put off Mr. Spencer with promises. His sickness made him helpless, and now another month had rolled around. His landlord had decided to wait no longer. He entered his tenant's yard with the step of one who goes to battle. He was thinking of business and where he would be likely to find another renter. He mounted the porch and reached for the door with his cane to give his accustomed knock, when he stopped to look at the scene within, revealed by an uncurtained window. The invalid father sat in his chair, his face upturned, his hands uplifted in prayer. His family knelt about him.

"Oh, God, prayed the unfortunate man, "send me bread for these empty mouths. My little ones are in need. Help me to bear my greatest trial. I pray Thee, O Lord, that they may not suffer long."

He paused in his supplications, for a sob choked his voice.

Mr. Spencer stood like one stunned, his cane still raised to strike the door. He put his hand to his throat as if to assist his breathing. Tears were in his eyes. No one in Wellsville had ever seen them there before. Hurriedly he left the porch, and walking rapidly, gained the street. He was ashamed. The prayer of a poor man showed him how ungrateful, how little God-fearing he was. The invalid had prayed with the perfect faith of one who knows that God hears his petition.

"If there is a God," Mr. Spencer whispered, "he heard that prayer and sent me to answer it."

When he reached the village grocery store he opened the door and went in. The proprietor, astonished to see so great a customer, hastened to take his order, and soon a huge pile of necessaries were on the counter.

"How much is the bill?" inquired Mr. Spencer.

After a few moments spent in figuring the grocer told him: "Twenty-six dollars and seventy-two cents."

"Very well," Mr. Spencer replied, handing him a roll of bills.

He ordered the goods to be delivered the first thing in the morning to his non-paying tenant, and after talking pleasantly with the grocer, something contrary to his habit, he left the store.

The next morning on going to his office he summoned his errand boy and instructed him to deliver a letter at Mr. Finney's. It contained a receipt for six months' rent. It stated further that until he entirely recovered his health he need not trouble about the rent. That night as Mr. Spencer sat in his library, cosy and comfortable, he felt like a different man. He was different and life seemed better worth the living. He thought of those little children, their wan faces, pinched by hunger, lifted in prayer. He imagined he could see those same little faces brighten when the good, wholesome food was placed before them.

A knock sounded on his door. "Come in," he called. John, his butler, entered and handed him a letter. It read:

"Mr. James Spencer:

"Dear Sir—Notwithstanding your concealment, I have found you out. Sir, you have saved my wife and little children from the cruel pangs of hunger and me from despair. Hope had entirely gone. Sir, I cannot thank you. I can only say, 'God bless you.'

"Your most humble servant,
"Ellis Finney.

"P. S.—Tomorrow will be Christmas. Come and join us in our humble home at our Christmas dinner and let us pray for you. e. l."

Mr. Spencer rose and touched the bell. "John," he said, when that worthy appeared, "tell Mary she need not prepare a dinner for me tomorrow. I shall dine with Mr. Ellis Finney. That's all."

John bowed and left the room.

"Whew," he whistled when he was out of hearing. Then he added: "What's struck the Hon. James B. Spencer!"

MARIE L. BUCKMEYER.
Malta, O.

"GLANCED THROUGH THE WINDOW"

Banner Puzzlers

For November.

New Work—Metta
Solutions—Pauline

1.—WHO WERE THEY?

A stately party kept Christmas together this year, in a certain place which shall be nameless. It was a group of poets, including one poetess, each appearing in a character created by himself. First came Tubal Cain, "a man of might," in the days when earth was young." This fashioner of warlike weapons was fitly followed by Aaric the Visigoth, of whom it is written, "Roman hearts shall long be sick, when men shall think of Alaric." The fair Ginevra, victim of her love for frolic, came forth from the carved oaken chest to chat with the "Silent Lover," whose "silence in love betrays more woe than words, tho' ne'er so witty." Narcissa, "young, gay and fortunate," lent a patient and attentive ear to the Ancient Mariner's doleful tale, and Abou Ben Ahdem found a congenial companion in the B'essed Damozel. The Maiden with the Milking Pail, conversed most sociably with the Lady of the Lake, and Lady Clara Vere de Vere carried on a brisk flirtation with the Earl of Quarterdeck, while the Jolly Old Pedagogue found himself no whit abashed by the presence of the Proud Miss MacBride. When the poets sat down to the Christmas feast, in the order taken by them in this description, it was found that the initials of their names formed a greeting that is very generally extended upon such occasions.

2.—HEADS AND TAILS.

Behead a dwelling-place, curtail a part in singing;
Behead a soaring bird, curtail what the sexton's ringing;
Behead the Christmastide, curtail the name of the moon;
Behead the midday hour, curtail that which "gets there right soon."
Behead creation's Lord, curtail the Latin to "half."
Behead a garden tool, curtail an exchange of chaff."
Behead what rules the world, curtain then the selfsame thing;
Behead what "downs" us all, curtail a mixture made to sing.
And when you have beheaded and curtailed as you are bidden,
You'll find some Christmas "trimmings" in the severed letters hidden.

3.—CRYPTOGRAPH.

P G E O A
O C D E W
O I N L E
L A T R O
T M H E N

These letters properly arranged form a Christmas sentiment, which the Schoolmistress hopes every one of her pupils may be able to utter not with their lips alone, but from the depths of their hearts.

4.—FRACTIONAL FESTIVAL.

Take one-third each of congealed water, an exclamation, the product of the mines, a small but very useful article of feminine attire, a beast of burden, a tribe of Indians, a girl's name, a young boy, and custom, and produce a festival odd as Christianity itself.

5.—NUMERICAL ORTHOGRAPHY.

20, 8, 5, 3, 18, 9, 3, 11, 5, 20, 15, 14, 20, 8, 5, 8, 5, 1, 18 20, 8.

Use letters instead of numbers and spell the name of one of the best Christmas stories ever written.

Answers to Puzzles for Dec. 11.

1.—Philip Sheridan.
2.—Live, vile, evil, veil, lie.
3.—2 extra barrels will be needed. (See Chat.)
4.—Words forming acrostic: Ham, Asa, Rei, Ono, Ram, Ute, Ahi, Centrals, Asenath.
5.—The Kalevala is the great epic poem of Finland; it is said to antedate Homer, and was probably composed before the days of King David and the Psalms. It is one of the world's greatest poems, and furnished Longfellow with the rhythm and general idea of Hiawatha. It was first reduced to writting by Topelius and Loonrott between 1822 and 1849, and first completely translated into English by Dr. J. M. Crawford in 1888.
6.—F. C. Browning wrote:

"I do not know
Where falls the seed that I have tried to sow
With greatest care;
But I shall know
The meaning of each waiting hour below,
Sometime, somewhere."

Chat.

The soluflon sent by E. M. Slifer to his problem answered today is this:

He sets the barrels in two long lines, with 1 barrel closing each end; then he moves one line of barrels over the width of the first enclosure and placing an extra barrel at each end, has twice the original space enclosed.

Correct recitations were made by W. P. E. Offa Neal, Marley Cranford, Ivon J. Richert, "W. P.," Pauline and Herman Culver.

Now, children, school is dismissed for this year, and your Schoolmistress hopes that each one of you may have a Merry Christmas and a Glad New Year, and that the spirit of the season may make it evident in all your dealings with fellowmen (and women).

LULLABY.

Written for The Blade:

Sh' mah little pickaninny,
Doan yo' cry no more,
Mam gwine to tell yo' somethin'
Yo' nebber heard befo'.

Ol' Santa Claus is comin' soon,
Likely started on his journey,
More'n a month ago,
Been a comin' ebber since,
Tho' de ice an' snow.

For he nebber disappoints us,
Comes as sho' as preachin',
Fill yo' stockin' to de brim,

HE STARTED MOH THAN A MONTH AGO

Wif his pack ob toys,
Reckon he'll member yo',
Ef you doan make a noise.

He doan lub such noisy chilluns,
'Cause he's gettin' old,
Mighty hard on po' old Santa
Travelin' in de cold.

Ef he finds yo' sleepin'.

So mah little collud baby,
Shet dem eyes up tight,
May de angels guard and keep yo',
Tho' dis long cold night.

—Emily Zenaide Hughes.
Toledo, O.

Daddy and Sonny.

BY ELIZABETH AYRES.

"Is there much of a crowd?"

"You can't see nottin' but people. Play, I'll Leave My Happy Home for You.' Here comes a bunch of daisy girls. Play like you was de real t'ing," whispered Jamsie.

The blind man swung his accordion through the air, bringing out the melody in a way that made people pause to listen and charmed money from their pockets. Dimes and nickels began to glisten among the coppers in the tin cup hung around the blind man's neck. Jamsie's eyes sparkled when he saw how the store of wealth was growing.

"Gee!" he exclaimed, beating a tattoo on the pavement with his crutch, "dis is sure Christmas business. You ain't got nottin' but money."

"How much do you think there is?" the musician questioned eagerly.

Jamsie peered into the cup with a calculating look.

"Must be more'n a dollar, anyway," he finally announced. "Gee, ain't it great!"

The blind man sighed with satisfaction and went on pressing music out of his accordion. At length he spoke: "Jamsie," he said, "we'll go tonight, sure. You and me, Sonny, we'll go to the theatre."

He pronounced the last word slow so the boy could get the full effect of the delightful news. Jamsie's joyous surprise robbed him of speech for a moment. He gazed into the blind man's face, and he saw there a smile that told him the promise was true.

"Ai' you ain't jollyin', neither," he said with a long breath. "It's the best ever Oh gee, de theayter an' Christmas eve! Drop de Happy Home an' play 'Nearer, My God, to Thee,'" he whispered suddenly. "Old ladies is coming."

The blind man obeyed the little fellow's directions, and, under the pressure of his fingers, the strains of the beautiful hymn sang from the accordion:

"Nearer, my God, to Thee,
Nearer to Thee—"

crooned Jamsie, following the harmony with the words of the song.

The two were warm friends and good comrades. Jamsie was a newsboy, so lame that he was obliged to walk with a crutch. He loved music and he particularly liked the accordion. He spent all the time he could spare near the corner where the street musician stood, and they gradually came to know each other. Before they were acquainted, the blind man listened for the quick tap, tap of the crutch on the pavement. When he heard it approaching, he turned his face in the direction of the sound and smiled a welcome. His evident pleasure gave Jamsie courage to speak, and so it was they became friends.

The boy's quick wit told him how to be of use, and he played eyes for his comrade, telling him of the people who were in the street, and what kind of music he thought would suit their fancy. After Jamsie entered the firm, the blind man gathered a richer harvest of small change which he insisted upon sharing with the boy whenever he could persuade him to accept assistance. Both were alone in the world, and they made their home together, becoming Daddy and Sonny to each other.

It was a poor honsehold they kept, but in it there dwelt contest. Their food was scanty and occasionally lacking entirely. At such times the old man turned to his accordion, playing over and over his list of simple tunes, repeating frequently, "Nearer, My God, to Thee," which Jamsie seemed to like the best. The child, sitting on a soap box that served as a chair, rested his elbows on his knees, and, with his chin in his hands, lost himself in the music, forgetting his hunger.

As the holidays drew near, money grew more plenty. The day before Christmas the spirit of generosity was abroadin the land, and, in consideration of his unusual prosperity, the blind man decided to give Jamsie, as a Christmas present, an evening at a theatre where an opera was being sung. He thought it over seriously before telling the boy of his intention, for Christmas eve was likelyto be a profitable season he sould not neglect.

"Christmas comes but once a year," he said to himself at last, "and Christmas is the day of days to rejoice and be glad. Sonny and I are going to be happy tonight if we go hungry next week."

After Jamsie had sold his papers, which he managed to dispose of at an early hour, he hastened to the corner where his comrade stood. The streets were thronged with a jostling, merry crowd, and the blind man played so late they were forced to run to get seats in the theatre. They climbed the long flights of stairs leading to the gallery, and there they had the good luck to secure places in the front row where they had a fine view of the stage and of the gaily-dressed, laughing, rustling audience. Daddy could not see, but he could hear, and the music was enchanting. Sonny explained to him the action on the stage, so he knew almost as well what was happening as though he had eyes of his own.

"De feller wid de short pants an' fancy lid on his head is stuck on de girl what forgot de top of her dress. Her pa, he says nit, he can't marry her. Pa is de big guy wid de graveyard voice and billy-goat whiskers. Say, ain't it great?" whispered Jamsie.

It certainly was "great" and they were enjoying it to the utmost. They were poor and ragged. They knew what it was to be cold and hungry, but the hearts that beat under flashing gems that night were not so light as those of Daddy and Sonny sitting coatless in the gallery.

The curtain had risen on the last act of the opera when a cry of "fire!" rang out. In a second all was confusion. The gallery, densely packed, became a swaying, struggling mass of fear-maddened humanity. Daddy and Sonny sprang into an aisle and were swept along by the terror-stricken horde.

"Hang on to me shoulder, Daddy," Jamsie shouted. "Don't be scairt, dey ain't no fire. Dese chumps is gone nutty. Hang on to me Daddy, don't you let go!"

The boy tried to clear a path with his crutch, but his blows were as little heeded as the stroke of a feather. Those behind were fighting to reach the stairways and fire escapes, beating down those in front and trampling them under foot when they fell. Daddy clung to the boy as much for the child's salvation as for his own. He could not see, but his size and strength enabled him to act as a bulwark against the annihilating rush of the human avalanche. They had nearly reached the street, when a sudden jarring pressure forced Jamsie from the blind man's hold. The child went down in the crush and the crowd surged over him. It was ended in a moment. The cold night air, the commands of the police, the agonized cry of Daddy: "For God's sake don't kill little Sonny," calmed the panic.

Jamsie was lifted up, limp and insensible. Daddy stretched out his arms, his accordion hanging by its strap from one of his hands, and laift the boy across his breast. He held him there in the ambulance which took them to the hospital where Jamsie was placed in the care of the physicians. Daddy, trembling and unnerved, with the tears streaming from his sightless eyes, waited in anguish to hear the doctors' verdict.

"Will he die?" he questioned brokenly, when the examination was finished.

A man with a kindly face glanced at him sharply.

"Die? Not a bit of it," he answered cheerily. "He's just badly shaken up. We are going to keep him here awhile, and when he goes out he'll have two good legs instead of one. He can throw away his crutch before long. The accident was the best Christmas present he could have received."

Without a word, Daddy brought out his accordion. Its tones swelled like the chords of a church organ when he swung it in the air, playing a hymn of praise:

"Nearer, my God, to Thee,
Nearer to Thee!
E'en though it be a cross
That raiseth me."

Twelve o'clock. The great bells of the cathedral swung to and fro, their iron tongues booming out the Christmas message:

Rejoice, Rejoice, Rejoice!

"Play 'Nearer, My God, to Thee,' Old Ladies is Coming."

BOWEN EMPOWERED

By President Castro to Make a Settlement of the Matter.

Washington, Dec. 18.—President Castro has clothed Minister Bowen with full powers to effect a settlement with Great Britain, Germany and Italy.

Mr. Bowen simply awaits the consent of the State department to assume this task, assuming that the nations named are willing that he shall undertake this work. It is believed that the critical phase of the Venezuelan difficulty is passed.

Venezuela will yield to the demands of the allies. The leading citizens of Caracas addressed a joint note to President Castro asking him to give full powers to United States Minister Bowen to affect a termination of the present difficulty, which he has done.

The following cablegram has been sent by the Navy department to Admiral Dewey, in command of the combined fleets, addressed to San Juan:

"Send competent officer with dispatch in torpedo boat destroyer or other vessel to Caracas as assistant to American minister."

The following cablegram also was sent to Commander Diehl, of the Marietta, now lying at La Guaira:

"Send Van Duzen (executive officer of the Marietta) as assistant to the American minister temporarily."

The officer from Dewey's fleet will relieve Lieutenant Commander Van Duzen, who is only an hour distant from Caracas, when he arrives upon the scene. It is believed that these measures are being taken to guard against an interruption in the cable connecting Mr. Bowen with his home government, and also to assist him in his task as representative of the powers and mediator for Venezuela.

The navy department contributed an important development in the Venezuelan situation over night in the form of a cablegram from Admiral Dewey, announcing the proposed itinerary of the vessels of his fleet during the Christmas holidays. It is clearly seen that the plan provides for no undue concentration of ships along the Venezuelan coast and so prudently and advisedly have its details been drawn up that Secretary Moody today cabled to the admiral the department's approval of his orders. This will set at rest that the rumors that the United States contemplates complicating the Venezuelan situation by dispatching a large naval force to La Guaira as an offset to the allied fleet.

Admiral Dewey's cablegram, dated San Juan, December 14, is to this effect:

"Proposed itinerary of vessels for Christmas holidays: Kearsarge, Alabama, Massachusetts, Iowa and Scorpion to Trinidad; Illinois, Indiana and Hist to St. Thomas; Texas to Pointe-a-Pitre; Chicago, Newark, and Eagle to Curacoa; San Francisco, Albany and Wasp to Mayaguez; Cincinnati, Atlanta, Prairie, tugs and torpedo boats to San Juan; Culgoa to Mayaguez and San Juan; Olympia, Nashville and Machias to St. Kitts; Detroit to Antigua; Mayflower and Vixen to Porto Rican waters, and vicinity, and Dolphin to Antgua and vicinity."

In reply, Secretary Moody sent the following cablegram:

"Carry out proposed itinerary. Merry Christmas!"

The government of France has now entered the field as an active party in interest in the Venezuelan trouble. The French government has, through its ambassadors and charges and ministers, served notice upon the governments of Great Britain, Germany and Italy, and by way of information has also told Secretary Hay that any provision made for the settlement of the claims against Venezuela must recognize the pre-emience of French claims.

The French government received assurances from the other governments named that any arrangements made would provide for the security of the French interests.

MOROCCO'S PRETENDER.

London, Dec. 18.—A dispatch from Fez says that the pretender to the throne has complete possesion of Thesa and the neighboring districts.

The pretender has appointed viziers and other officials and has set up a court with every symbol of royalty.

The tribes east of Fez, almost without exception, acknowledge the pretender as the sultan.

The correspondent says that very heavy rains impede the progress of the imperial troops.

Increase in wages averaging 8 per cent is granted by the Northwestern road to 5,000 engineers and firemen.

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Send Name and Address To-Day. You Can Have It Free and Be Strong and Vigorous for Life.

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How any man may quickly cure himself after years of suffering from sexual weakness, night losses, varicocele, etc., and enlarge small, weak organs to full size and

Health, Strength and Vigor For Men.

vigor. Simply send your name and address to Dr. Knapp Medical Co., 862 Hull bldg., Detroit, Mich., and they will gladly send you the free receipt with full directions so that any man may easily cure himself at home. This is certainly almost generous offer, and the following extracts taken from their daily mail, show what men think of their generosity.

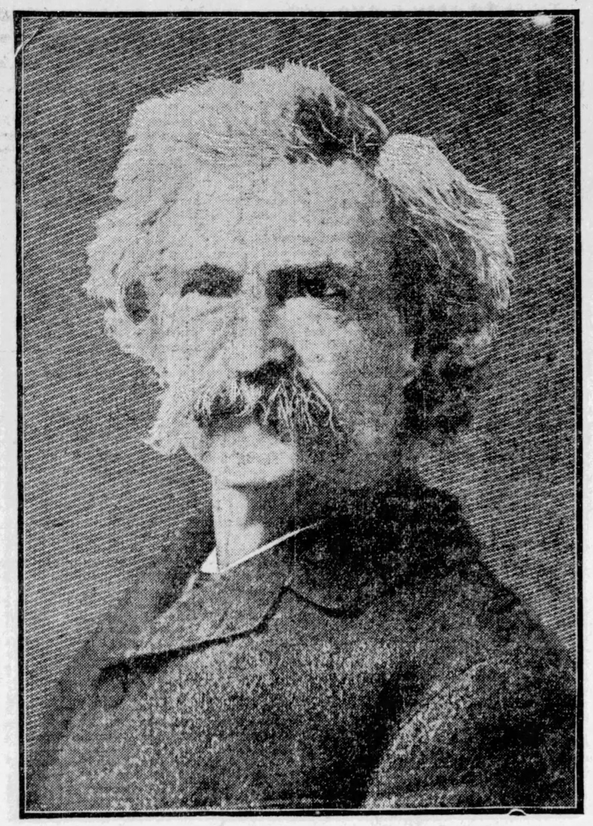
"Dear Sirs:—Please accept my sincere thanks for yours of recent date. I have given your treatment a thorough test and the benefit has been extraordinary. It has completely braced me up. I am just as vigorous as when a boy, and you cannot realize how happy I am."

"Dear Sirs:—Your method worked beautifully. Results were exactly what I needed. Strength and vigor have completely returned and enlargement is entirely satisfactory."

"Dear Sirs:—Yours was received and I had no trouble in making use of the receipt as directed, and can truthfully say it is a boon to weak men. I am greatly improved in size, strength and vigor."

All correspondence is strictly confidential, mailed in plain, sealed envelope. The book is free for the asking, and they want every man to have it.

MARK TWAIN, THE HUMORIST, IS NOW WRITING A PLAY



New York, Dec. 17.—Mark Twain, whose literary success has been great in almost all directions, will seek a new outlet for his talents in the drama. His books frequently have been dramatized, but he is now writing an original play.

GENERAL NORD

Has Been Made the President of Hayti.

Port-au-Prince, Hayti, Dec. 22.—There was a disorderly scene at yesterday's sitting of the Congress as a result of the violent speeches by Senator Cauvin and Deputy Jeannot, who protested against the proclamation by the army of General Nord as president of the republic. One hundred and fifteen votes were cast, of these General Nord received 100 and was elected, while 15 of the ballots were blank.

The people of the country desire peace and they have received the announcement of the result of the voting with satisfaction. Port-au-Prince is now quiet.

The new Haytien ministry is constituted as follows:

Senor Leger Cauvin, minister of the interior; General Cyriac, minister of war; M. Jeremie, minister of foreign affairs; M. Paulin, minister of public instruction; M. St. Amand, minister of public works; M. Donnery, minister of finance.

PRINCE HENRY OF PLESS.

Berlin, Dec. 19.—It is considered in some quarters here that Prince Henry of Pless, who wants to be minister from

PRINCE HENRY OF PLESS.

Germany to the United States, will assuredly be appointed to that post next year. His beautiful wife was Miss Daisy Cornwallis-West.

COL. LYNCH'S TRIAL.

London, Dec. 19.—It is evident that the government acted wisely in delaying the trial of Col. Lynch, member of parliament for Galway, and who is accused of treason, in that he is alleged to have fought on the side of the Boers during the recent war. While the war was in progress Col. Lynch's case was a subject of heated discussion, but when the case was called for trial today in the Law Courts there was a small attendance, and but little public interest.

Col. Lynch, who has been in jail for several months, is in good health and expects to be acquitted on the ground that he was a Boer citizen when he took up arms against England. Gen Botha will testify in behalf of the prisoner, and a number of other witnesses from South Africa will be heard. The government will spare no effort to secure conviction in order to invalidate Col. Lynch's election for Galway, and to exclude him from the house of commons. It is thought that only a nominal sentence will be imposed if he is convicted.

MRS. MAYBRICK AGAIN.

London, Dec. 17.—Baroness De Roques visited her daughter, Florence Maybrick, in Aylesbury prison yesterday. She found Mrs. Maybrick to be in delicate health but cheerful.

Owing to the interest taken in Mrs. Maybrick by the Duchess of Bedford and others the prisoner is now receiving better treatment. She has been transferred from the manual labor department of the prison to the library.

Killed by Earthquake.

London, Dec. 19.—A special dispatch from St. Petersburg says nearly one thousand persons were killed by the earthquake December 16 at Andijan, Russian Central Asia. They were mostly native Turkomans.

THE KING'S SPEECH

When the Session of the British Parliament Ended.

London, Dec. 18.—Parliament was prorogued this afternoon by royal commission. Only a score of members of the house of commons were present when Black Rod summoned the lower house to the house of lords to hear the king's speech, which was an unusually lengthy recapitulation of public events since January, including the action taken in connection with Venezuela, regarding which the king said:

"I regret that the constant complaints which my government found it necessary to address to the government of Venezuela in regard to the unjustifiable and arbitrary acts against British subjects and property during the last two years have been persistently disregarded and that it has become necessary for my government, acting in concert with that of his imperial majesty, the German emperor, which also has serious causes for complaint against the republic, to insist on measures of redress."

The speech refers to the conclusion of the South African war, and adds:

"There seems to be every reason to hope that material prosperity, greater than any the Transvaal and Orange River colonies have ever yet experienced may visit those regions and that all sections of the population may live together in friendship for each other and loyalty to the crown."

Paragraphs deal with the postponed coronation, the colonial conference, and Colonial Secretary Chamberlain's tour which, together, are expected to be of the "utmost value in respect to their immediate effect and as precedents in the future."

Other topics touched upon were the expeditions against the Mad Mullah and the co-operation of Italy therein, the acceptance by Chili and Argentine of the British award, the Brussels sugar convention, and the alliance between Great Britain and Japan, which the king believes "will be of advantage to both countries and contribute to the maintenance of general peace in the extreme East."

Parliament was prorogued until February 17.

TROUBLE IN CHINA.

Shanghai, Dec. 22.—The North China Daily News has received the serious news from Shensi that Tung Fu Siang, the exiled Chinese commander whose execution was demanded by the powers, but who is supposed to be protected by the dowager empress, is mobilizing in Kan Su ten thousand well equipped troops, among whom are included the provincial garrison of 4,000 men who were disbanded by imperial command. The purpose of Tung Fu Siang is the extermination of foreigners in the provinces of Shensi and Eau Su and the seizure of San Fu. Friendly officials are advising foreigners and missionaries to depart in order to avoid the impending trouble.

Tung Fu Siang is buying great quantities of grain and fodder. He is in constant communication with Prince Tuan, the dowager empress and Yung Lu, who are believed to be secretly encouraging him and supplying him with money.

A PRINCESS FLED.

Dresden, Saxony, Dec. 22.—The crown princess of Saxony fled from her home on the night of December 11 or 12, according to the Drendener Journal. She is said to have suddenly, in a state of intense mental excitement, deserted her family at Salsburg and to have gone abroad. The Saxon court functions for the winter have been cancelled, including the New Year's reception.

Prince Friederich Augurt, crown prince of Saxony, married November 21, 1891, the Princess Luise of Tuscany. They have five children.

AMNESTY GRANTED.

St. Petersburg, Dec. 19.—The Czar has granted amnesty to the students who were punished for rioting on his name day. He telegraphed the minister of the interior as follows:

"Let the studnets who were punished for creating disturbances return from Siberia, although they should not for the present be allowed to live in towns where there are high schools. Care must nevertheless be taken that the young men on their return be entrusted to the keeping of their families, as such surroundings will familiarize them with the order."

The telegram, which is equivalent to an imperial decree, pardons 58 students exiled to Siberia, in addition to the 62 students previously pardoned.

ENGLAND'S PURPOSES.

Mr. Balfour's Explanation in the House of Commons.

London, Dec. 17.—In the course of a long statement in the house of commons today Premier Balfour said that there was no such thing as a "pacific blockade." A state of war actually existed with Venezuela and an intimation of a blockade would shortly be given to the powers.

Mr. Balfour added that the blockade would be carried out with as little inconvenience to neutrals as possible. Nothing definite had occurred with reference to the arbitration proposal since his previous statement on the subject.

The premier also said that the operations were reluctantly undertaken, not to recover debts, but, after a long and patient delay, to recover compensation for assaults on British subjects and the seizure of British vessels.

He believed that the Germans also had claims besides the financial ones.

Mr. Healy, Irish Nationalist, asked if the United States assented to a blockade which would exclude United States vessels. Mr. Balfour replied:

"Neutrals are not consulted when you are in a state of war with a third party."

"Is war declared?" asked Mr. Healy.

The premier replied: "Does the honorable member suppose that without a state of war you can take vessels and have a blockade?"

Replying to further questions, Mr. Balfour said that he had nothing to add regarding arbitration beyond what was contained in his previous statement on the subject. Papers were being prepared and would be presented to the house as soon as possible. He assumed they would include the communcations which had passed on the subject of the blockade between the United States and Great Britain.

Mr. Balfour's statement was made in reply to the desire of the Liberal leader, Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, for information on the Venezuelan situation. After reiterating Lord Lansdowne's brief statement in the house of lords yesterday, the premier continued:

"The blockade will be carried out by Great Britain and Germany along different portions of the coast, and though the two fleets will have the same objects they will not act as one force. We never had any intention of landing troops in Venezuela or of occupying territory, even temporarily. We do not think it desirable on either military or other grounds. All the conditions covering such a blockade have been carefully considered and will be published in due time for the information of neutrals. The government is most anxious that these operations, the necessity for which we deeply regret, should be as little inconvenient to neutrals as they can possibly be made. No difference will be made between the vessels of the various neutral powers. I think it quite likely that the United States will think that there cannot be such a thing as a 'pacific blockade,' and I, personally, take the same view. Evidently a blockade involves a state of war."

Mr. Balfour concluded his statement by saying he could make no announcement as to whether the offer of arbitration from Venezuela would be accepted by Great Britain.

VICE ADMIRAL A. L. DOUGLAS.

Vice Admiral A. L. Douglas, who commands the British-German squadron which seized and sunk the Venezuelan navy, was first lord of the admiralty at London, when he was appointed commander-in-chief of the British North Atlantic squadron last July. He was born at Quebec, and saw service on the Canadian lakes during the Fenian troubles in 1866. He was for a number of years at the head of the Japanese naval school at Tokio, being lent to the Japanese navy for the purpose of training the naval officers of the nation, which recently formally became Great Britain's ally in the Orient. Foreign warships in Venezuelan waters under his command are the cruisers Retribution, Indefatigable, Ariadne, Tribune and Charybdis, English; and the cruisers Ganzelle, Vineta and Falk, German.

ENGLISH PLUM PUDDING.

London, Dec. 18.—It is estimated that during the past two or three weeks the steamships leaving England have carried upwards of 500 tons of plum pudding, or roughly speaking, about 170,000 puddings. To an Englishman a Christmas dinner without plum pudding would be like a production of Hamlet without the melancholy Dane, and the Britain's weakness in this particular is one that always sticks to him even though he migrates to the end of the earth. As the holiday season approaches each year tons of festive pudding find their way from London all over the world. A large proportion are sent as Christmas presents to friends in the United States. Many hundreds of them go to Canada, Australia and South Africa. The puddings are packed in tins and sent by parcels post as a rule. An interview with the manager of the best known firm of plum pudding makers develops the fact that many more plum puddings are being sent to the United States this year than heretofore, owing to the abolition of the duty of nearly 50 per cent which formerly prevailed. The orders come from all parts of America, several having come from as far west as San Francisco and Seattle.

Strike Ended.

Marseilles, Dec. 18.—The strike is at an end. The sailors have voted to resume work.

Free to Everyone.

A Priceless Book Sent Free For the Asking.

Piles Cured Without Cutting, Danger or Detention From Work, by a Simple Home Remedy.

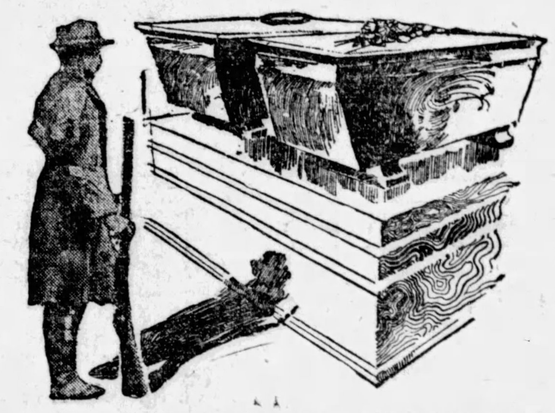
Pyramid Pile Cure gives instant relief and never fails to cure every form of this most troublesome disease. For sale by all druggists at 50 cents a package. Thousands have been quickly cured. Ask your druggist for a package of Pyramid Pile Cure, or write for our little book which tells all about the cause and cure of piles. Write your name and address plainly on a postal card, mail to the Pyramid Drug Co., Marshall, Mich., and you will receive the book by return mail.

THE GRANT SARCOPHAGUS IS STILL INCOMPLETE

GRANT'S TOMB ON RIVERSIDE DRIVE.

New York Dec. 17.—"The work of opening the Grant sarcophagus" says Secretary H. W. Hayden of the Grant Monument Association, "will take some time. The association will have to erect a derrick in the tomb to lift the massive stone cover off the sarcophagus, and not until that is done will it be possible to lay the body of Mrs. Grant away.

"We have as yet received no word from any member of the Grant family as to their wishes with regard to the funeral. I am endeavoring to get the executive committee of our association, consisting of Cornelius N. Bliss, Henry W. Cannon, Alonzo B. Cornell, Alexander E. Orr, Cornelius O'Reilly, J. Adriance Bush and General Wager Swayne, with myself as secretary, to meet tomorrow to adopt appropriate resolutions and take such further action as may be necessary, but I have had difficulty in communicating with all of the members of the committee."



INTERIOR OF THT TOMB, SHOWING WHERE THE BODY OF MRS. GRANT WILL BE LAID BESIDE HER ILLUSTRIOUS HUSBAND'S.

MRS. JULIA GRANT.

Funeral Services Held—Interment in the Monument.

Washington, Dec. 20.—In the presence of a notable assemblage, incuding President Roosevelt, some of his cabinet, many senators and representatives and most of the army, navy and marine officers in the city in their dress uniforms, funeral services over the remains of Mrs. Julia Dent Grant, the widow of the former soldier-president, were held in this city this morning and the body immediately afterward was taken to New York on a train over the Pennsylvania railway, which left here at 11 o'clock. All of the children of Mrs. Grant were present except Jesse Grant, who reached New York this morning and will attend the ceremonies in that city tomorrow. The members of the family and relatives who attended the service follows:

Mrs. Sartoris, General and Mrs. Fred D. Grant, Ulysses Simpson Grant, who arrived during the service at the chuch; U. S. Grant, jr., Miss Sartoris, Mr. and Mrs. Scoville, Miss Julia Grant, Lieutenant Commander and Mrs. Alexander Sharp, Nellie D. Sharp, Mrs. James F. Casey, Miss Casey, Mr. and Mrs. James Casey, Mrs. Jules Casey, Miss Annie Dent, Mr. and Mrs. Garrish Smith, Mr. Grant Smith and Lieutenant Morgy.

Those who accompanied the remains to New York on the private car Convoy, which was attached to the regular train and immediately back of the baggage car in which the casket was placed were: General and Mrs. F. D. Grant, U. S. Grant, Mrs. Sartoris, U. S. Grant, jr., Miss Sartoris, Commander Sharp, Grant Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Sharp, Mrs. Scoville, Mrs. Julia Grant and Miss Mary Coffee, for many years the faithful maid of Mrs. Grant. Preceded by a short service at the Grant house the main service was held in the Metropolitan M. E. church, where the family worshiped during the Grant administration.

The President and Secretary Hay occupied the front pew. Back of them were seated Secretaries Moody and Hitchcock, Postmaster General Payne and Secretary Cortelyou. Next was the family pew, draped with the National emblem and occupied by the immediately family, and on the extreme sat Commander Cowles, U. S. A., and Colonel Bingham, U. S. A.

The Rev. Dr. Frank M. Bristol, pastor of the church, officiated and opened the ceremony by reading from the Scriptures as he walked down the aisle, followed by the honorary pallbearers, consisting of senators, the speaker of the house and others. The pallbearers were seated just back of the family. The coffin was covered and the pulpit was banked with floral tributes. The choir sang "Lead Kindly Light," after which Dr. Bristol offered prayer. Following this the choir sang, "Nearer My God to Thee," and the service was closed.

The family were then driven to the Pennsylvania depot and left on the 11 o'clock train for New York.

Through the Japanese minister, the sympathy of the Empress of Japan for the Grant family in its affliction was expressed in the following cablegram:

"Her majesty, the empress, heard with much sorrow of the death of Mrs. Grant. Please convey to her family her majesty's sincere condolence.

(Signed.)

"MINISTER OF THE IMPERIAL HOUSEHOLD."

TURKEY CROP CORNERED.

Indianapolis, Dec. 20.—The turkey crop of Indiana is cornered in Indianapolis. The promoters of the corner have secured control of the bulk of the turkeys now in the state. They have operated through dealers in the country, buying only dressed stock. This has been placed in cold storage. The turkeys cannot be had by Indianapolians at any price, as they are intended for the New York market. A representative of a New York firm has managed the deal. He says he has now in storage about 500,000 pounds of turkeys, which, he says, comprises practically all the dressed turkeys in Indianapolis.

MARCONI'S SUCCESS.

Wireless Messages Flashed 2,300 Miles Over the Atlantic.

New York, Dec. 22.—The following dispatch from Marconi, dated Glace Bay, N. S., Dec. 21, has been received by the Associated Press.

"I beg to inform you for circulation that I have established wireless telegraph communication between Cape Breton, Can., and Cornwall, Eng., with complete success. Inauguratory messages, including one from the governor-general of Canada to King Edward VII., have already been transmitted and forwarded to the kings of England and Italy. A message to the London Times has also been transmitted in the presence of its special correspondent, D. Parkin, M. P.

King Congratulates Marconi.

Rome, Dec. 22.—King Victor Emmanuel this morning received a wireless message from Marconi, forwarded from Cape Breton via Cornwall, and sent a congratulatory reply.

Message From Canada.

London, Dec. 22.—The second edition of the Times today prints the text of a wireless Marconi message received from Acting Premier Cartwright, of the Canadian government, as follows:

"Ottawa, Dec. 21.—The government of Canada, through the Times, desires to congratulate the British people on the accomplishment by Marconi of the greatest feat modern science has yet achieved."

Commercial Business Soon.

London, Dec. 22.—The representatives of the Marconi company say they have been receiving transatlantic messages for a week. They add that the messages to King Edward and others came through without a hitch and practically instantaneously. It is claimed that the company will be able to handle 1,000 words per hour. As soon as it is able to get the postoffice authorities to connect Poldhu with the inland telegraph the company will commence regular commercial business between Cornwall and Nova Scotia.

Marconi has expressed mild satisfaction with the results recently obtained, but the manager here says the inventor was always so sure he would be able to achieve his aim that they did not expect him to be enthusiastic. Marconi is going to Cape Cod, where his apparatus only needs slight adjustment before it will be ready to be linked up with Poldhu, which at present is the only wireless station on this side capable of receiving transatlantic messages. Other stations will shortly be built on the continent.

BOERS COMING.

Denver, Dec. 19.—Nearly 9,000 Boers, it is said, are preparing to "trek" to America, and will settle in Colorado, New Mexico and Texas. The representative of this movement is Gen. Samuel Pearson, late quartermaster general of the South African republic, whose headquarters are in New York. Colorado friends of the Boers have been in communication with General Pearson in regard to suitable lands for the settlers, and Gen. M. de Villiers, who is now looking over the lands, has expressed himself as very favorably impressed with this state.

Under the Snow.

Lincoln, Neb., Dec. 22.—Fifty passengers on train No. 302, on the Burlington, running from Denver to Deadwood, who had been buried beneath ten feet of snow for 24 hours, were rescued last night. It took a relief force of 50 men from Sidney, fifteen miles away, ten hours to make it possible to move the train.

TWO WRECKS.

Schooners in Collision Off the New England Coast.

Boston, Dec. 22.—The fishing schooner Manhassett arrived here early today, having on board 10 survivors of the wrecked schooners Frank A. Palmer and Louise B. Crarey, which were in collision Wednesday night off Thatcher's island. Eleven sailors were either killed in the collision, drowned or died from exposure. After the accident 15 or more men from either vessel took to a small boat.

The Louise B. Crarey was a five-masted and the Frank A. Palmer a four-masted schooner. They were both coal laden, bound for Boston.

At 8 a. m. yesterday when the Manhassett was 45 miles off Highland light, the lookout sighted a small boat with men, who were making signals of distress. The Manhassett changed her course and bore down on the little craft, which proved to be the boat which had been launched from the Crarey. Only 10 of the men aboard her were alive, and they were almost helpless as a result of their exposure to the rigorous weather.

Saturday night one man became crazed by his sufferings and shouting at the top of his voice that the police were after him he jumped overboard and disappeared. Four other members of the little boat's company died from exhaustion and from the exposure to which they had been subjected. All the survivors were frostbitten and some of them will probably have to have their feet and hands amputated.

The Manhassett came into the harbor early this morning showing signals for assistance, and by the time she arrived at a wharf ambulances were ready to transfer the sailors to the hospital. Only six of the men could be removed, however. The other four were in such a critical condition that it was deemed impossible that they could survive being taken from the vessel.

Two of the men on the Manhassett are Capt. W. H. Potter, of the Louise B. Crary, and Capt. R. S. Rawling, of the Frank A. Palmer. The other two men are sailors, both of whom are raving maniacs.

The men taken to the hospital were not only in a critical condition physically, but they were in such a mental plight that nothing could be learned from them as to their experience. Little by little, however, the crew of the Manhassett had learned something of the hardship of the shipwrecked men. It appears that the collision occurred at 7:30 o'clock last Wednesday night some miles off Cape Ann. The night was clear, but a stiff gale was blowing and the sea was running high. The members of the Palmer's crew claimed that the Crarey was on the wrong tack, and in attempting to cross the Palmer's course hit her on the bow, cutting her nose square off, and entangling both vessels in the wreck. The anchor and bowsprit of the Palmer sank away from the wreck, while the anchor of the Crarey was tangled in the foreigning of the Palmer and broke off the foremast. The vessels began to fill and sank in a few minutes.

The Palmer's men managed to lower a boat. There was no time to procure provisions or additional clothing. As the men cleared the wreck of their vessel they saw the Crarey's men in the same plight as they had been and made room for as many as could reach the boat. Fifteen souls were in the small craft when it finally pulled away, both captains being among those who thus escaped. A short time after the boat left both schooners went down. Six men perished when the vessels sank.

For the survivors, a battle which lasted three days and four nights had begun. One-third of the number succumbed in the fight, and of those who finally reached shore none was able to realize what they had escaped.

THE HUNTER CASE.

New York, Dec. 20.—A copy of the statement made before the court of third instance in Guatemala by W. G. Hunter, jr., son of the United States minister to Guatemala, regarding the shooting of William A. Fitzgerald, has been received here. Hunter says:

"I left the legation of the United States on the afternoon of Thursday, November 20, 1902 in company with the Hon. James G. Bailey, secretary of legation, for my accustomed daily walk, and upon reaching the Placa de Armas, as usual about 5 o'clock we took a seat together, facing the music stand in front of the statue of Columbus. We had been seated there a few minutes engaged in conversation, when William A. Fitzgerald, whose presence was unknown to me, and without a word being said or anything done to provoke an assault, seized me by the coat collar with his left hand and with his right struck me a severe blow under the left eye, which drew the blood, and while thus holding me firmly down on the seat drew a revolver, which he snapped two or three times in my face. Recovering from this assault, which for a moment dazed me, and the surprise at the presence of the assailant, whom I had not previously seen, I at once sprang with superhuman effort to my feet, thrust him from me, drew my revolver and shot the would-be assassin dead in self-defense, firing five shots, the contents of my weapon, in so doing. Immediately after the tragedy I walked quietly a short distance away from the scene of the occurrence and surrendered to the local authorities."

W. G. Hanley made a statement confirming that of Mr. Hunter.

SERIOUS ACCIDENT

New York, Dec. 20.—Three women were seriously injured and 57 other passengers badly shaken up in a trolley car accident in Weehawken at midnight. The victims, mostly women, were cut and bruised, but not seriously injured. The accident occurred at a point where the trolley company's tracks cross those of the Erie railroad. When the trolley car reached the tracks the motorman stopped his car to allow a freight train to pass. The train consisted of nine cars and was moving along rapidly. The last three cars of the freight train broke loose some distance east of the crossing and were not noticed by the train crew. After the six cars had passed by the motorman of the trolley car thought it was the last of the train and started to cross the tracks. When he got his car in the middle of the crossing the three freight cars which had broken loose from the train came rolling along and before he could get his car over the crossing it was struck with terrific force by the freight cars.

The trolley car was completely turned over and the passengers thrown through the windows, up against the doors and on top of one another. They were struck in the face with broken glass and everything else movable.

JAPANESE SILK.

Ogdensburg, N. Y., Dec. 18.—Japanese raw silk worth $2,000,000 was transferred to the New York Central railroad here from Canada yesterday and sent by special train to New York. The silk was shipped from Japan by Canadian Pacific steamship to Vancouver and by rail to Prescott. Within six weeks thirty-eight cars of the Japanese silk, valued at nearly $5,000,000, have passed through here for New York over the same route.

Senators Dietrich and Millard, of Nebraska, present to President protest against actions and words of Col. Mosby, who is investigating alleged encroachments of cattlemen on government lands.

PISO'S CURE FOR CURES WHERE ALL ELSE FAILS. Best Cough Syrup. Tastes Good. Use in time. Sold by druggists. CONSUMPTION

Going to Bed Hungry

It Is All Wrong and Man Is the Only Creature That Does It.

The complete emptiness of the stomach during sleep adds greatly to the amount of emaciation, sleeplessness and general weakness so often met with. There is a perpetual change of tissues in the body, sleeping or waking, and the supply of nourishment ought to be somewhat continuous and food taken just before retiring, adds more tissue than is destroyed, and increased weight and vigor is the result. Dr. W. T. Cathell says: "All animals except man eat before sleep, and there is no reason in Nature why man should form the exception to the rule."

If people who are thin, nervous and sleepless would take a light lunch of bread and milk or oatmeal and cream, and at the same time take a safe, harmless stomach remedy like Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets in order to aid the stomach in digesting it, the result will be a surprising increase in weight, strength and general vigor. The only drawback has been that thin, nervous, dyspeptic people cannot digest and assimilate wholesome food at night or any other time. For such it is absolutely necessary to use Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets, because they will digest the food, no matter how weak the stomach may be, nourishing the body and resting the stomach at the same time.

Dr. Stevenson says: "I depend almost entirely upon Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets in treating indigestion, because it is not a quack nostrum, and I know just what they contain, a combination of vegetable essences, pure pepsin, and they cure dyspepsia and stomach troubles, because they can't help but cure." Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets are sold by druggists everywhere at 50 cents per package. They are in lozenge form, pleasant to take, and contain nothing but pure pepsin, vegetable essences and bismuth, scientifically compounded. Your druggist will tell you they give universal satisfaction.

THE HUMBERTS.

An Entire Family of French Swindlers Caught in Madrid.

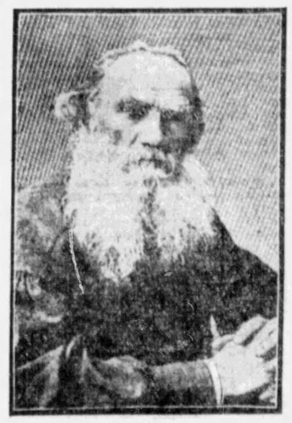
Madrid, Dec. 20.—Madame Humbert, other members of the Humbert family, and M. and Madame D'Aurignac, the brother and sister-in-law of Madame Humbert, who became notorious in connection with the great safe frauds in Paris, have been arrested here. They had been in Madrid since May 9.

The police made a clean haul of the whole family, Madame Humbert, her husband, Eva Humbert, and the three D'Aurignacs, Romain, Emile and Marie. The police suspected a house on the Calle Ferray. Some time yesterday Romain d'Aurignac was seen to enter the building, a search warrant was obtained and the house was surrounded. After some difficulty the police were admitted and arrested the long-sought-for defaulters.

The prisoners protested that they were the victims of infamous proceedings. They threatened to "get even" with certain persons in France, and said they had come to Madrid direct from Paris. Mlle. Eva became hysterical and Madame Humbert clasped Marie d'Aurignac and her daughter in her arms, pleading with the police "for the love of God not to separate me from my daughter." The police made an inventory of the contents of the apartments and found a parcel of jewels valued at $2,000, a couple of lottery tickets and about $115 in cash. The whole family were removed to the jail at the disposition of the French ambassador. The police suspect the Humberts of having disposed of important papers in the lavatories while delaying the entry of the officers. The family tried to escape by the windows, but failed, as the house was cordoned.

TOLSTOI'S PLAN.

London, Dec. 18.—Count Leo Tolstoi, the famous Russian novelist, has arranged for his burial outside of his native land. His novel, The Resurrection, has been successfully put on the stage.



A NEW TRIAL.

St. Louis, Dec. 17.—The supreme court at Jefferson City has reversed the verdict of the St. Louis circuit court, which found guilty Emil A. Meysenburg, charged with bribery, and remanding the case for retrial. Meysenburg, a member of the city council, was charged with accepting money from Charles H. Turner, president of the Suburban Railway Company, at a time when his vote was desired to aid the passage of the suburban bill through the council. Meysenburg admitted receiving the money, but contended that it was in payment for stock in an electrical company bought by Turner. In support of his contention Meysenburg showed that he had voted against the suburban bill on its passage.

This was the first of the "boodle" cases tried.

FIVE BOODLERS CONVICTED

St. Louis, Dec. 20.—The joint trial of five former members of the house of delegates, which began Tuesday, ended here last night in a verdict of five years in the penitentiary for each man. The defendants, John A. Sheridan, Charles J. Denny, Charles Gutke, Edmund Bersch and T. E. Albright, were convicted on charges of bribery in connection with the passage of the suburban street car bill, to accomplish which, it was charged $75,000 had been placed on deposit to be used as required. The five defendants, after hearing the verdict, filed motions for a new trial and each was released on bond.

ANOTHER MILLION.

Chicago, Dec. 17.—President Harper, of the University of Chicago, at the convocation exercises yesterday, announced the gift by John D. Rockefeller of another million dollars to that institution. Other gifts were also announced, making the aggregate $1,826,000.

President Harper advocated the pensioning of retired professors, but said that the details of the plan would have to be considered further before any steps in that direction could be taken.

Proceedings instituted under the Sherman anti-trust law against the General Electric and Westinghouse companies, who are charged with agreeing to regulate prices, divide territory and limit competition.

ARBITRATION.

What the European Nations Have to Propose in the Matter.

Washington, Dec. 19.—Secretary Hay has received partial responses from the governments of Great Britain, Germany and Italy respecting the proposal to arbitrate the Venezuelan difficulties. Great Britain is favorable to arbitration with proper safeguards; Germany accepts arbitration in principle, but finds a multitude of small adjustments to be made before entering into the agreement; Italy, as the junior partner of the allies, declares that she is favorable to arbitration, but will be bound probably by the action of the senior partners.

To secure these results the American embassies at London, Berlin and Rome have been working energetically to carry out the instructions of Secretary Hay to ascertain how the proposal will be received.

As far as England is concerned, the safeguards referred to are believed to relate to the question of guarantee, which is full of difficulties. In this connection as indicated in these dispatches yesterday some consideration is again being given to the feasibility of the assumption of responsibility for any award assessed against Venezuela, by responsible private agencies, but the United States government is determined not to allow itself to be drawn into the position of a guarantor in this case for the precedent once established, might require the United States to become the financial backer of all South and Central America. However, if private concerns can be induced to enter the field the United States government will do what it can to reduce their risks. Secretary Hay, Sir Michael Herbert, the British ambassador, and Senator Depew were in conference today, and it is suspected that this phase of the case was touched upon, although no confirmation can be had at this time.

The German position presents the greatest difficulties, for not only does it involve a demand for apologies, which are extremely repugnant to Venezuela, but also presents so many points requiring adjustment that it is evident that many days or perhaps, weeks, must elapse before the adjustment can be effected and the case prepared for arbitration. And the danger of delay in the face of a blockade which seriously cripples neutral commmerce and invites hostile collisions with the Venezuelans cannot be overestimated. The efforts of the United States, therefore, must be directed toward hastening Germany's action on the arbitration proposal. The Italian position is, of course, of less concern than that of the other allies. The Italian ambasador here, in his intercourse with the State department, has been extremely moderate and considerate, giving Secretary Hay the impression that he is well disposed to second an effort of the United States to terminate the present dangerous situation. The French government has served notice that without abating her claims the payment for which have been arranged, she also claims the right to have the claims of French citizens which have arisen since the adjustment above each of, considered by the joint tribunal which will adjust the Venezuelan debts on a basis of equality with those of the other nations. This contention is strongly resisted by some of the allied powers, and is one of the points which is likely to lead to the consumption of much time and which must be disposed of before a final arrangement can be made to arbitrate the case.

RAILWAY COMBINES.

Washington, Dec. 17.—The tendency to combine continues the most significant feature of railway development, according to the annual report of the inter state commerce commission issued today. The report says:

"It is not open to question that the competition between railroad carriers, which formerly prevailed, has been largely suppressed, or at least brought to the condition of effective restraint. The progress of consolidation in one form or another, will, at no distant day, confine this competition within narrow and unimportant limits, because the control of most railway properties will be merged in a few individuals whose common interest impel them to act in concert.

"While this will insure, as probably nothing else can in equal degree, the observance of published tariffs, and so measurably prevent some of the evils which the act was designed to prevent the resulting situation involves consequences to the public which claim the most serious attention. A law which might have answered the purpose when competition was relied upon to secure reasonable rates in demonstrably inadequate when that competition is displaced by the most far-reaching and powerful combinations. So great a change in conditions calls for corresponding change in the regular statute."

The commission reaffirms its recommendations for amending the interstate commerce lay and urges the grave necessity for legislation.

The report says that the fact that no convictions have yet been obtained nor indictments found in the cases of the roads which were shown, by an investigation last winter, to be giving secret rates to grain shippers emphasizes the fact that the criminal provisions of the interstate law are practically a dead letter.

SUIT DISMISSED.

Washington, Dec. 22.—The United States supreme court today dismissed the writ of error in the case of Whitney Layton vs. the state of Missouri, on the ground that no federal question had been raised in the trial court. The case involved the constitutionality of the pure food law of the state and has attracted much attention. Layton, whose place of business is St. Louis, was found guilty in the trial court of the use of alum in the manufacture of baking powder, and a fine of $100 was assessed against him. The verdict was affirmed by the state supreme court. The effect of today's opinion is to leave the verdict against Layton standing, but it did not enter upon any question as to the merits of the case. The opinion was delivered by Chief Justice Fuller.

Pure food bill passed by House, 72 to 21; penalty provided for shipping or receiving adulterated food or imitation of other products, in states or territories; false labeling as foreign product prohibited.

One Pair of Eyes

To a Life-Time. Take Care of Them

With Our Chart, You Fit Yourself At Home.

—WE SAVE YOU—
The Jeweler's or Optician's Profit.

—Warranted—

German Silver Spectacles $1.00
Gold Spectacles $2.00

Send for our fitting chart—Free.

Toledo Optical Co.,
1314 Adams St., Toledo, Ohio.

RADWAY'S READY RELIEF

Radway's Ready Relief is a sure cure for every pain. Sprains, Bruises, Pains in the Back, Chest and Limbs. Taken inwardly, there is not a remedial agent in the world that will cure fever and ague and all other malarious, bilious and other fevers, aided by RADWAY'S PILLS, so quickly as RADWAY'S READY RELIEF. Sold by druggists.
RADWAY & CO., 55 Elm St., New York.

GIFTS FOR PRESIDENT.

Costly, Unique and Freak Articles Sent.

Washington, Dec. 23.—Christmas presents are arriving in great numbers at the White House, coming from relatives, personal friends and admirers of the Roosevelts. The character of the gifts is varied. Some are costly, others unique, and not a few on the freak order. They comes not only from the states, but from the West Indies and the far East. Cigars without number are sent to the President from Cuba, Porto Rico and Manila, the senders evidently not being aware of the fact that Mr. Roosevelt, unlike his predecessor, has no great fondness for tobacco. From China and the Philippines come many curios and not a few of these are addressed to the younger members of the President's family. Tropical fruits, including crates of pineapples bananas and oranges have been received at the executive mansion, and turkeys, barrels of apples, and wild game have come from friends within the states.

The daily delivery of innumerable parcels at the White House bears testimony to the fact that it is indeed going to be a merry Christmas with the chief executive and his family. In spite of numerous exacting duties Mrs. Roosevelt has managed to spend several hours each week at the different stores and in consequence all of her gifts are ready for distribution. Later Mrs. McKinley, she selects the presents for her intimate friends from little keepsakes made by her own hands.

Miss Ethel Roosevelt will not receive a doll this year, and this will be the first time that her mother has not dressed such a plaything for her daughter. Mrs. Roosevelt, however, learned that Miss Ethel had concluded that her family was large enough and that she would prefer books or some intricate puzzles, which are popular at her school, instead of more dolls. Little Quintin, however, believes in boy babies, and has quite an assortment of rough riders, clergymen and soldiers, and he will doubtless add to his collection. Archibald scorns such playthings and always asks for something alive or for collars or other ornaments for his numerous pets.

The cabinet women will follow the precedent established last year and will present Mrs. Roosevelt a handsome gift. This present is exceedingly beautiful and costly. None of the ladies feel free to disclose its nature, but they all say that it is something that Mrs. Roosevelt has desired for some time and for which she has frequently expressed a wish. Mrs Hay, as the ranking lady of the cabinet, was selected to purchase the gift.

THE PRESIDENT'S RETURN.

Washington, Dec. 22. — President Roosevelt and family arrived in Washington from Rapidan, Va., at 11:25 oclock today. They were met at the station by Secretary Cortelyou and were driven directly to the White House. The trip from Rapidan was made without noteworthy incident.

At 8:35 o'clock the President, Mrs. Roosevelt and the children arrived at the Rapidan station in a big carryall, drawn by four horses and driven by their host, Joseph Wilmer. The President was in excellent spirits and expressed himself as having had a delightful time. The train started promptly at 9 o'clock. Upon the arrival of the train at the Pennsylvania station in this city the President alighted from his car, and, in company with Mr. Cortelyou, walked briskly along the platform. Arriving at the locomotive which had pulled the special train he stopped and shaking hands cordially with both the engineer and fireman, wished them a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. The President acknowledged the greetings of the crowd in the station by raising his hat and bowing right and left as he walked. The crowd that had assembled outside the station cheered as he stepped into his carriage.

President Roosevelt reached his office in the executivem ansion about noon and began immediately to dispose of official matters that had accumulated during his absence. He received only a few callers.

The announcement was made at the executive offices that between Christmas and New Year's day the President would not make any appointments for receiving callers and that during that week he would have no regular office hours. He will spend as much time in the open air, horseback and carriage riding, as his duties will permit.

A NATIONAL THEATRE.

Washington, Dec. 18.—Washington will have a national theatre if a joint resolution, which was introduced in the house by Representative Miers, of Bloomington, Ind., goes through. The measure provides that a site upon which to erect a playhouse be furnished in the District of Columbia by congress. If this is done, it is said that Andrew Carnegie will probably furnish the means with which to erect and support the treatre.

Inquiry developed the fact that James P. Voorheis, of this city, inspired the introduction of the resolution, and that he has been agitating the establishment of a national theatre here since 1896. In explaining the project Mr. Voorheis said: "It is contemplated that the plays presented in the proposed theatre will be selected by a board of management, and be limited to such productions as are best for the temperamental, social and ethical as well as for the professional interests of the players. The resolution introduced is the result of six years of missionary work on the subject of a national theatre. Since 1896 prominent members of the theatrical profession have given the matter careful consideration, and endorsements have been received from such actors as Richard Mansfield, Henry Irving, E. H. Sothern, Henry E. Dixey, Frank Daniels and others. The movement has also secured an offer from Andrew Carnegie to endow a playhouse on the condition that the government take an interest in the affair."

National theatres are maintained in many countries of Europe, notably France, Italy, Germany and Russia.

A HUGE CLAIM.

Lima, Peru, Dec. 18.—The French legation here presented to the Peruvian government on November 8 of this year a claim for $16,071,940 in favor of the Dreyfus brothers, of Paris, in accordance with the finding of the Lausanne court of arbitration. Up to the present time the government has made no reply to the presentation of this claim and it is probable that the French legation will soon reiterate its request for a settlement in stronger language.

NEW TRIAL FOR HOWARD.

Frankfort, Ky., Dec. 18.—James Howard, convicted of the murder of William Goebel, will have a new trial. It has been granted by the Kentucky court of appeals. The court was divided on political lines in the reversal of the lower court, the four Republican judges voting for it and the three Democratic judges against it.

SOME UNIQUE EXPERIMENTS TO FIND THE EFFECTS OF FOODS

SECRETARY WILSON. DR. W. W. WILEY.

Washington, Dec. 22.—Dr. W. W. Wiley and Secretary Wilson will experiment for a year on foods, and believe the results cannot fail to be world-wide in extent. Twelve young men in government employ will show by actual consumption what is the effect of borax, salicylic acid, etc., on the human stomach. Two of the young men yesterday began eating meals prepared with borax so that the effects of the food can be observed.

PRIMATE DEAD.

Frederick Temple, Archbishop of Canterbury, Passes Away.

London, Dec. 23.—The Most Rev. Frederick Temple, Archbishop of Canterbury and primate of all England, who had been ill for some time past, is dead.

The Archbishop of Canterbury passed away quite peacefully at 8:15 o'clock in the presence of his wife and two sons. His death had been anticipated for some days and only the archbishop's remarkable vitality enabled him to counteract his extreme weakness. The final collapse occurred about 6 o'clock and he was unconscious towards the end. The primate died of old age. The pathetic scene in Westminster Abbey at the coronation of King Edward was one of the earlier indications of his failing strength. Then came the collapse in the house of lords at the conclusion of a vigorous speech in support of his education bill. He had not left his bed since. He will be buried at Canterbury. The Bishop of Winchester is considered likely to be his successor.

CARDINALS GREET POPE

Aged Rome Prelates Offer Christmas Wishes.

Rome, Dec. 23.—There was a picturesque scene in the pope's private library at noon today, when all the cardinals living in Rome gathered there to present the pontiff their Christmas greetings. All the visitors wore their gorgeous red robes. A remarkable fact was that, with the exception of Cardinal San Stefeno and Cardinal Parocchi, all the assembled prelates, some of whom were created cardinals when Pius XI. was pope, appeared exceptionally well, animated and full of plans for the future.

Cardinal Santo Stefano as dogen of the sacred college, read the congratulatory address. The pope spoke at some length in reply and expressed keen sorrow at the fact that his jubilee year was embittered by painful events, referring evidently to the divorce bill. The pontiff in this connection remarked: "What they want is the fall of Christian order and reconstitution of the state on the basis of the pagan naturalism." The pope pleaded for a spread of Christian democracy "on the lines preached by the church to oppose the seditious, socialistic democracy which acknowledged no God."

After receiving the apostolic benediction the cardinals withdrew.

GIRL IMPRISONED FOR LESE MAJESTE

Berlin, Dec. 23.—A Polish girl named Konec has been sentenced to fourteen days' imprisonmen at Inorazlau, Province of Posen, for lese majeste, in having thrown a brooch with Emperor William's picture in it to the floor and stamped upon it. Such brooches were presented to the pupils of the schools when his majesty visited Posen.

YALE GETS ANTIQUITIES

Annual Donation From Egyptian Exploration Fund.

New Haven, Dec. 23.—Yale University officials announce that they have received a large collection of Egyptian antiquities as the annual donation from the Egypt Exploration Fund and representing Connecticut's share in that fund for the current year. The present assigument, which is from Abydos and Fayum, is of unusual value. The prehistoric period is represented by one hundred flint implements. There are also spindle whorls belonging to the first dynasty and Ushabti figures, beads, bronzes and a double granite statue of Unnefer and his sister, ranging in point of historic sequence from the eighteenth to the thirteenth dynasty.

ON ISLAND QUEEN.

New York, Dec. 22.—Under the incognito of Mrs. Paul Kolbe, the virtual queen of a group of South Sea islands and one of the half-dozen wealthiest women in the world, with her husband and grandson, is in New York. Her wealth is in the neighborhood of $20,000,000, and she is the lawmaker for nearly 100,000 islanders who, a score of years ago, were among the fiercest cannibals in the world. This remarkable woman is Emma, known among her dependents in the Bismarck Archipelago as their queen and herself a princess of royal blood of Samoa.

She is on her way home from Germany, where she has been negotiating for the sale to a syndicate for $2,000,000 of about one-eighth of her possessions. It is her hope that within the next five years she may be able to dispose of all her interests in the archipelago and spend the remainder of her life traveling, with a residence on the Hawaiian islands.

Earthquake in Costa Rica.

San Jose, Costa Rica, Dec. 19.—Two violent earthquake shocks were experienced here yesterday morning. The people of the city were greatly alarmed, but there were no casualties. Several other shocks followed at intervals. These, however, were of diminishing severity.

STRIKE COMMISSION.

Testimony Still Being Given on the Miners' Side.

Scranton, Pa., Dec. 17.—The miners today put on the stand before the coal strike commission the fathers of two of the little girls who had testified on Monday that they worked all night in silk mills.

The operators yesterday submitted wage statements showing that one of these men and his laborer had received $1,681, and the other and his laborer were paid $1,400 last year. John Demko, father of one of the girls, said that four and sometimes six men figured in the division of the $1,400. The other miner claimed that four men divided the $1,661.

Everett Warren, one of the operators' attorneys, on cross-examination, tried to show that this was not the case. Both men promised to take the girls out of the silk mill.

After the witnesses left the stand, Chairman Gray asked for an explanation from the Pennsylvania Coal Company, which is controlled by the Erie Railroad Company, regarding the wages of men. The wages mentioned by the company were handed to the commission some days ago and did not indicate that more than two persons figured in the distribution.

W. A. May, general manager of the Pennsylvania Coal Company, was called to the witness stand and explained that because of the system in vogue in the company's mine it would be difficult to show in every case how many men shared in one pay.

C. S. Darrow, for the miners, said the miners had no confidence in the figures submitted by the company, and added that the way they were handed in was unfair.

The deputy factory inspector of the Scranton district was examined regarding child labor and said that 1,400 boys and 1,600 girls, between the ages of 13 and 16 years, were employed in the mills in this vicinity. Justice Gray suggested that the Pennsylvania legislature be petitioned to improve the factory inspection laws regarding child labor.

Three state mine inspectors were then called. They were unanimous in saying that the companies in their districts had no rules requiring the miners to stay in the mines all day. One inspector said the miners in his district did not average five hours' work a day.

The same witness said that most of the accidents were due to the negligence or misjudgment of workmen themselves. The inspectors, in reply to questions asked by the commissioners, said they sometimes were accompanied by company officials, and many times they visited the workings alone. At this point a recess was taken.

Scranton, Pa., Dec. 20.—The anthracite coal strike commission held its last session of the year today and adjourned to meet in Philadelphia on Tuesday, January 6.

In order to permit the commissioners and others connected with the proceedings to catch trains, today's session began at 9 o'clock. The attorneys for the non-union men continued calling witnesses from Lackawanna and Luzerne counties for the purpose of proving that violence, intimidation and boycotts were resorted to in order to prevent the non-union men from continuing work.

Everett Warren, counsel for the Lehigh Valley Coal company, filed the wage statements of the company.

John H. Otto, the first witness called, said all the merchants in Archbald, Pa., were compelled to boycott him because he worked in the mines. The second witness was a boy who was forced to leave the store he was employed in on account of his father being a non-union man, and the next witness testified that strikers tried to have him forced out of the volunteer fire company, to which he belonged, because he continued at work as a mine engineer during the strike.

William Allen, district superintendent of the Elk Hill Coal and Iron Company, and two other employes of the same company, testified that an attack was made upon the carpenter shops of the company property and an attempt was made to burn it.

Mrs. Rhoda Snyder, of Wilkesbarre, with a baby in her arms, took the stand, and, with tears running down her face, told of the burning of her home by strikers. Her husband was in the mines and could not come home, because he feared bodily harm. She and her children were so abused that she moved to another part of the city. Her reception in the new home was hostile and she decided to move to her mother-in-law's home. The strikers prevented her and she and her two children took refuge with the mother-in-law. The same night the house and all its contents were destroyed by fire. Her goods were not insured. Her father-in-law and mother-in-law corroborated her testimony.

L. L. Sprague, president of Wyoming seminary of Kingston, told of the difficulty he had in getting coal for the seminary. He said the union men made it very difficult for the seminary to get its supply of fuel.

President P. J. Hulhein, of the Father Whitey Temperance society of Province, near Scranton, and the treasurer of the society were called by the miners in rebuttal of testimony given yesterday by Joseph P. Ducan, who said that he had been expelled from the society, because he was an unfair workman. The two officers of the society testified that he was expelled because he had violnted the total abstinence pledge.

Four Polanders were next called and testified to having been badly beaten and boycotted during the strike.

James D. Lewes, a mine foreman, who testified yesterday that he had been held up by a crowd near Olyphant, was called in rebuttal by the miners and a photograph, with a large crowd around him, posing for a picture, was placed in evidence.

The last witness of the session was James Dolen, of Parsons, who told a story of persecution, because he worked during the strike. His children were beaten and insulted on the streets. Before adiourning for the holidays at noon, Chairman Gray, on behalf of the commission, requested all parties to make every effort to hand in the wage statements during the recess, so that the members of the commission could study them.

RAISED A ROW.

When Italian Commander Barred an American Ship.

Caracas, Dec. 23.—The Red "D" line steamer Caracas, Captain Woodrick, from New York, December 13, via San Juan, Porto Rico, and Willemstad, Curacoa, arrived at La Guaira this morning from the latter port and was allowed free entrance by the blockading vessels. This decision, however, was not arrived at without some difficulty, due, it is claimed here, to the lack of unity of action on the part of the allies.

The commander of the British cruiser Tribune yesterday notified Mr. Schuck, the consul of Great Britain, that the Caracas could enter the port of La Guaira today. The Tribune then sailed from La Guaira, leaving the Italian cruiser Giovanni Bausan in charge of the blockade. The first act of the commander of the Bausan was to notify the agents of the Red "D" line that the Caracas would not be allowed to land her passengers, mails or freight.

The commander of the United States gunboat Marietta, Lieutenant Commander Diehl, the commander of the French cruiser Troude, and the United States consul were immediately informed of the stand taken by the Italian commander, whose decision was regarded as violating the terms of the decrees establishing the blockade, which allowed all steamers coming from the United States 10 days' grace from the date of the establishment of the blockade, December 20, in which to reach Venezuelan ports.

Mr. Boulton, of Boulton & Co., agents of the line, and all the foreign merchants entered protests against the Italian commander's decision, and the commander of the Marietta and the United States consul cabled to Washington for instructions. Meanwhile Lieutenant Commander Diehl, after a conference with the Italian commander, succeeded in convincing him he was wrong in his interpretation of the blockade decrees, and finally the captain of the Giovanni Bausan assured Lieutenant Commander Diehl that the Caracas would be allowed to enter the port of La Guaira without hindrance. Mr. Boulton then was notified that the Caracas would have free entry and he cabled to Willemstad, where she was awaiting orders, instructing Captain Woodrick to proceed to La Guaira.

The German warship which passed La Guaira Sunday towing two large schooners was the Panther. She captured the vessels near Maracaibo.

The German cruiser Gazelle arrived at La Guiara yesterday morning and sailed again at noon.

The Bausan and the Tribune captured the following prizes yesterday: The schooner Castor, loaded with salt, from Araya; the schooner Maria Luisa, with cargo of cocoa on board, from Caronero; the sloop Cornelia, from Guanta.

The Red "D" line steamer Caracas safely entered the harbor of La Guaira at 8 oclock this morning.

The mail, freight and passengers of the Caracas were landed at 10 o'clock. The captain of the British cruiser Tribune notified the commander of the Caracas that throughout her stay at La Guiara she must leave the harbor every night. This measure is regarded as vexatious and causes great expense to the owners of the steamer.

There are five newspaper correspondents on board the Caracas.

The Maine Ready for Service.

Philadelphia, Dec. 23.—The recent order of the navy department to hurry up the finishing touches on the battleship Maine has been followed out at Cramp's shipyards. ... steam up the battleship lies in the Delaware river ready to go into commission. Her hull is painted a dazzling white from stem to stern, while at night hundreds of tiny electric lights make her decks as bright as day. Ten big guns have been placed on board the Maine—four 12-inch breech-loading rifles, 16 6-inch rapid-fire guns, six 3-inch rapid-fire guns, eight, 6-pounders, six 1-pounders, two Colts, two 3-inch rapid-fire field guns and two submerged Whitehead torpedo tubes.

Suggest Hay as Arbitrator.

Washington, Dec. 23. — President Roosevelt has asked Great Britain and Germany to accept Secretary of State Hay as arbitrator of the Venezuelan dispute. If those two foreign powers will not accept Secretary Hay as arbitrator of their claims against Venezuela and if they insist that President Roosevelt accept the responsibility of that difficult post the President will yield to their suggestion. He will do so notwithstanding that his entire cabinet and a majority of the leaders of his party in Congress are opposed to his acceptance. It was by way of concession to this opinion that the President, in a counter suggestion made to the English and German governments, proposed the selection of Secretary Hay as arbitrator.

Castro Placates France.

Paris, Dec. 23.—The foreign office has received President Castro's acceptance of the conditions of the French note. The President says France will receive equal treatment with the other powers in the settlement and payment of claims. The purpose of the French negotiations was, as previously pointed out, to safeguard French claims against being subordinated to those of the powers which are adopting forcible means for their collection. It is expected here that the United States and other powers which are not resorting to force will receive a similar assurance to that given to France.

The official view here favors, first, arbitration; second, the appointment of an international commission to execute the decision of the arbitrator, similar to the commission appointed in the cases of Egypt and Greece. In case the commission is appointed it is probable that the French claims, which it had been decided to submit to arbitration, will be included in those to be considered by the commission.

Protests to the President.

Washington, Dec. 23.—The formal proposals of Great Britain and Germany that President Roosevelt arbitrate the Venezuelan dispute did not arrive here over night nor were they at hand when the cabinet met, but it is expected that they will reach Washington within a day or two. Strong pressure is being brought upon the President to decline the invitations to act as arbitrator. This pressure comes from the newspapers, from public men throughout the country, and from senators and representatives in Washington. Senator Cullom, of the Senate committee on foreign relations, called at the state department today with a bundle of telegrams, all energetic protests against the embarkation of the President upon the arbitration scheme, by prominent men in Illinois.

Ambassador Tower reported to the state department yesterday from Berlin that the blockade of Puerto Cabello and Maracaibo would be effective December 20.

President Not Decided.

Washington, Dec. 23.—The cabinet spent the entire time of the meeting today in a discussion of the Venezuelan situation. Views for and against the President's acceptance of the invitation to arbitrate were discussed. Pending the receipt of the invitations it is stated that the President declines to commit himself as to his course.

The state department today received a cablegram from Minister Bowen, the first for several days, recording the establishment of the blockade lines, according to the proclamations already issued, and stating that the port of Coro is not yet blockaded. He also announced that the Rev. D. Schneider, the only Protestant clergyman in Caracas, is dead.

Important British Note.

London, Dec. 23.—An important and lengthy communication dealing with the British views of the arbitration of the Venezuelan dispute was made by Foreign Secretary Lansdowne to the United States charge d'affaires, Mr. White, last evening. It was transmitted immediately to Washington by Mr. White.

TWENTY MILLIONS.

An Enormous Offering for the Methodist Church.

Rochester, N. Y., Dec. 23.—Three years ago the Methodist Episcopal church set out to raise $20,000,000 for a "twentieth century thank offering fund." The Rev. Dr. E. M. Mills, corresponding secretary for the fund and its executive head, said:

"The total amount in the fund is now more than $19,000,000. At midnight of December 31, 1902, in Trinity Methodist Episcopal church, Springfield, Mass., the church from which the call for the movement was first issued, I am assured of the pleasure of announcing that the last dollar of the fund has been raised."

The last public statement issued by Dr. Mills was to the effect that $18,500,000 had been raised. When asked how much "more than $19,000,000" the fund now contains and on what he bases his assurance that the entire fund will be raised by New Year's eve, Dr. Mills declined to answer, but said something about not wanting to "take the edge off a delightful surprise."

"All I can say," said he, "is that in the language of the theologians, I have a lively hope."

The figures with which Dr. Mills' report deals tell an interesting story. There has been raised for educational purposes, $7,850,758. Of this amount, Dr. Mills says, $600,000 has come within forty-five days. More than eighty-six Methodist Episcopal universities, colleges, theological seminaries, schools and academies are beneficiaries. Syracuse University leads with gifts aggregating $1,176,800, and next to it comes Ohio Wesleyan University, with a new endowment of $1,092,806.

Dr. Mills makes public the apportionment of the major part of the $500,000 recently contributed. It will raise the endowment of these schools as follows:

Cornell College, Iowa, from $281,000 to $350,000.

University of Southern California, from $190,000 to $250,000.

Boston University, from $130,000 to $200,000.

Morningside College, Sioux City, Iowa, from $62,000 to $130,000.

Baker University, from $60,000 to $110,000.

University of the Pacific, from $41,000 to $100,000.

Dickinson College, from $51,000 to $65,000.

Illinois Wesleyan University, from $40,000 to $50,000.

Willamette University, from $16,100 to $31,000.

Bishop Thoburn's Indian school, $100,000.

"These figures mean," said Dr. Mills, "that the Methodist Episcopal church has gathered in three years more for its schools than it has gathered for the same purpose during the first hundred years of its history.

The second great purpose to which the thank offering fund is devoted is the payment of debts on church property.

"For this purpose," said Dr. Mills, "we have in three years given the sum of $8,000,000. In the state of Wyoming not a cent of debt hangs over a Methodist Episcopal church or parsonage. In the United States sixteen presiding elders' districts show the same record.

"One other cause remains, however, to whose generous endowment the fund commission and Methodist preachers all over the country are bending every effort in these closing days of the thank offering movement.

"This is the establishment of a permanent fund for worn out Methodist preachers. We are aiming to secure for this cause by New Year's eve the sum of $1,500,000. Of that amount we have already obtained $900,000. On Sunday every Methodist Episcopal church in the United States will take up a collection for it."

The memorable watch night meeting to be held in the Springfield church New Year's eve, Dr. Mills promises, will be full of incidents.

SMUGGLING CASES HEARD

Prominent Men Arraigned in San Juan, Porto Rico.

San Juan, Porto Rico, Dec 23.—Robert Giles, a government road contractor and manager of the Automobile Transportation, has been arrested in connection with the smuggling cases. He has been arraigned, charged with smuggling, and pleaded not guilty.

The preliminary examinations before United States Commissioner Anderson of Supervisor of Elections Benjamin Butler, Commander G. W. Mentz, in charge of the Porto Rico lighthouse service, James Brennan, an employe of the Country Club, and Robert Giles, charged with smuggling two lots of wines and liquors from St. Thomas on the United States steamer Uncas and lighthouse tender Laurel began here yesterday afternoon.

MORMONS OBSERVE SMITH ANNIVERSARY

Salt Lake City, Utah, Dec. 23.—Wherever there are Mormons today has been celebrated, and in a number of instances the festivities have entirely taken the place of the celebration two days hence by Christendom. December 23 is Joseph Smith's birthday anniversary, and the observance of it and of Brigham Young's birthday are official holidays of the Mormon church. The celebrations take the form of anniversary exercises in the different meeting-houses with music and discourses on the life and deeds of Joseph Smith. The story is told of his birth in 1805 in a lowly farmhouse at Sharon, Vt., his alleged discovery of the sacred plates, and his subsequent "revelations," the story of his subsequent career, in which he founded the Mormon religion, and his tragic death in Illinois.

BIG BLACKMAIL SCHEME

Thousands of Threatening Letters Sent for Bogus Bills.

Bloomington, Ill., Dec. 23.—The local postoffice is in receipt of 2,000 letters from a New York collection agency addressed to residents here, each one of which letters contains a claim for $1.25 said to be due for the purchase of jewelry. A suit is threatened in case of non-remittance. The postoffice authorities say that the letters were sent by blackmailers who hope to frighten persons into remitting. Similar consignments of letters were sent to all the principal postoffices of the state. Postoffice inspectors are collecting evidence against the senders.

Ecuador's Minister Arrives.

New York, Dec. 23.—Dr. Alfred Baquerizo, minister of Ecuador to the United States, arrived here today on the steamer Alliance from Colon.

Demand on Corea.

St. Petersburg, Dec. 17.—It is announced in a special dispatch from Seoul, that the United States minister to Corea has demanded the payment of $1,500,000, due to the builders of the electric railroad.

The Markets.

WEEKLY TRADE REPORT.

New York, Dec. 20.—R. G. Dun & Co.'s weekly review of trade says: Holiday trade has exceeded even the most sanguine expectation and retail dealings in all staple lines of merchandise are well maintained, with the better grades of goods in brisk demand. Wholesome conditions prevail in most sections of the country, although in parts of the southwest the season has fallen behind the average. Even in these cases reports are encouraging for the future. Industrial plants are well employed, orders running far into the future and labor controversies are rare. The only adverse feature of the situation is the fact that supplies of fuel are utterly inadequate, both for household and manufacturing uses, snow increasing the delay of deliveries. Railway earnings thus far reported for December exceed last year's by 4.2 per cent. and those of 1900 by 10.4 per cent.

Two events of importance have occurred in relation to the leading manufacturing industry. The United States Steel orporation has greatly extended its scope by absorbing many outside plants and certain desirable railway connections. The other was the announcement of advanced freight rates to take effect January 1, showing an average increase of about 10 per cent. on products of iron and steel. Otherwise the situation is practically unchanged, the largest producer having over 5,280,000 tons of unfilled orders on its books and work is being pushed as rapidly as supplies of fuel and material will permit. Supplies of coke do not increase, and many furnaces are idle. Contracts for bridge work and track elevation are freely offered by the railways and accepted only on condition that the exact date of delivery shall not be specified. Despite the fact that the rail mills are sold close up to the end of next year new business is offered and urgent buyers are compelled to go abroad.

New England producers of boots and shoes are not seeking new business which comes forward moderately in the form of supplementary orders. Prices are firmly held, but no further advance is reported.

A reduction in quotations of leading lines of bleached cottons stimulated trading, many buyers having delayed placing contracts in anticipation of this change. This division of textile market is in good condition, with no immediate prospect of excessive supplies. Otherwise the domestic situation is practically unchanged. Failures for the week numbered 207 in the United States against 265 last year, and 16 in Canada compared with 27 a year ago.

THE GRAIN MARKETS.

Toledo, Dec. 23.—Close.—The wheat market opened in a very quiet and subdued manner this morning with the values all unchanged from last night. Trade was light, more so than for any of the preceding days during the dullness. The favorable weather caused a little selling shortly after the opening and May eased off to 81¼c. The northwest receipts are small. Liverpool cables maintain surprising strength and closed 1d higher. The export business yesterday was one of the supporting facts of today's early market. Bradstreet's decrease in the world's visible is 933,000. New York wires that Russian offerings are very light. The close was steady with cash and December unchanged and May ⅛c lower.

The primary receipts were 626,000; last week, 851,000; last year, holiday; shipments, 155,000; last week, 155,000.

Steady cables were the principal influence in a steady opening in corn today. December got away unchanged and May ⅛c lower. Trade was woefully light and there was practically no market for the coarse grain. The close yas weak, December ½c lower and May ⅜c off.

Primary receipts were 986,000; last week, 801,000; shipments, 384,000; last year, 205,000.

There was practically no business in oats today, but the market held steady. Both options opened unchanged. The close was ⅛c higher for December and unchanged for May.

Seed was dull and steady, opening a shade lower for January and March. Receipts were 200 bags; shipments, 96 bags. The close was unchanged.

TOLEDO.

Wheat—	Open.	High.	Low.	Close.	Toledo, Dec. 22.
Cash	....	....	....	78	78
Dec.	....	....	....	78	78
May	81⅜	81⅜	81	81	81⅞
Corn—					
Dec	45½	45	45	45	45½
May	43⅜b	....	....	43¾	43⅞
Oats—					
Dec	23½n	....	....	34a	23½
May	34½	34½	34a	34a	34½
Clover Seed—					
Dec	....	....	....	$6.67½	$6.67½
Jan	6.67½	6.70	6.70	6.70	
Mch	6.80	6.82½	6.80	6.82½a	6.82½
Rye—No. 2, 52½c.					
Timothy—Prime, $1.80.					
Alsike—Prime, $8.00.					

CHICAGO.

Wheat—					
Dec	74⅜	75	74⅛a	74⅝a	74⅞
May	77½	77⅝	77	77⅛a	77⅝a
July	74¼	74⅛	74	74¼	74½b
Corn—					
Dec	45⅞	45⅛	45	45⅛b	45⅝a
May	43½	43⅝	43⅛	43⅜a	43⅝b
July	42⅝	42⅞	42⅜	42⅝a	42⅝a
Oats—					
Dec	32	32	31⅝	31⅝a	32
May	33⅜	33⅞	33⅛	33⅛b	33⅜a

NEW YORK.

Wheat—					
Dec.	83⅝b	84⅝	83⅜b	84¼	83⅝a
May	81⅝	81⅞	81	81b	81⅛b
Corn—					
Dec.	59½b	60⅞	59¼	59⅞	60a
May	48⅜	48⅝	45⅝b2	48¾a	48⅝b

ST. LOUIS.

Wheat—					
Dec.	72n	....	....	71½a	72b
May	76½	76½	76¼	76⅝a	76½a

MINNEAPOLIS.

Wheat—					
Dec.	....	....	....	....	73½
May	....	....	....	....	75⅝½

DULUTH.

Wheat—					
Dec.	....	....	....	73½b	73½b
May	....	....	....	76½a	76⅝b

CHICAGO PROVISIONS.

Pork—					
Jan.	$16.67	$16.72	$16.60	$16.60b	$16.65
May	16.20	16.30	16.17	16.20	16.15
Lard—					
Dec.	10.27	10.27	10.17a	10.17a	10.25b
Jan.	9.87	9.90	9.75	9.80	9.82b
May	9.37-45	9.47	9.37-40	9.42	9.37
Ribs—					
Jan.	8.50	8.50	8.45	8.45r	8.47
May	8.57-60	8.62	8.57	8.57-60	8.55-57

Chicago.

Chicago, Ill., Dec. 23.—Wheat—Exports at seaboard 30 loads late yesterday and today. Trade very light owing to two holidays and while a little bullish sentiment was created on strength in Liverpool and unfavorable weather in Argentine, outside business was scarce and this started selling in small way by pit traders. There was liberal decrease in world's visible, while fair export demand existed. While the close was easy the undertone to the market was a strong one and we look for good buying to appear on further dips.

Corn—Exports, nine loads. Country acceptances were said to be large and thus brought about a fair amount of selling, although trade was rather light and largely local. We feel friendly to May future and favor its purchase on dips.

Oats were inclined to be firm on small country offerings, but values worked off on profit-taking. Would say that sentiment is more bullish than otherwise.

Provisions display